Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-036
Wednesday
23 February 1994

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CONTENTS

23 February 1994

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Moscow Talks End in 'Protocol for a Cease-Fire' 1
Signing of Protocol Viewed *[TURAN]* 1
Karabakh Leadership Rejects Cease-Fire *[SEGODNYA 22 Feb]* 1
Date To Be Set Later *[PRAVDA 22 Feb]* 1
Armenian Foreign Ministry Welcomes Accord *[Yerevan Radio]* 2
Russian Foreign Ministry Hails Protocol *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Baltic Chiefs Agree on Peacekeeping Battalion *[ETA]* 3
Baltic Military Exercises Completed; Commander Comments *[ETA]* 3
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 23 Feb 3

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

CIA Employee Arrested for Spying for Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Clinton Orders Protest *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Deputy Defense Minister on Joint Maneuvers With U.S. *[Radio Rossii]* 5
Yeltsin Aide Comments on Serbs Diplomatic Efforts *[Moscow TV]* 6
Yeltsin Calls For Summit on Yugoslavia *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Kostikov Hails Yeltsin's 'Strong Move' on Sarajevo *[TRUD 22 Feb]* 6
Russian Troops in Sarajevo; Grachev Comments *[Russian TV]* 7
Defense Ministry on Role in Bosnian Peace Efforts *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Paper Views Grachev-Perry Bosnia Talks *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 23 Feb]* 9
Adamishin Views Russia's Role in Bosnia *[Rome L'UNITA 20 Feb]* 9
Comments on Political Solutions *[INTERFAX]* 11
Confirms 'Special Summit' *[INTERFAX]* 12
Lavrov Reaffirms Position on NATO Ultimatum *[Radio Rossii]* 13
Bonn Meeting on Bosnia Settlement Reported *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Further on Bonn Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Russian, U.S. Versions of Sarajevo 'Victory' Contrasted *[IZVESTIYA 23 Feb]* 14
Further Diplomatic Moves in Bosnia Planned *[Moscow TV]* 14
Moscow Urges West To Make Muslims 'Help Unblock' Sarajevo *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
NATO 'Saved From Itself' in Bosnia *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 22 Feb]* 15
Bosnia Optimism Grows Despite U.S. 'Treachery' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 22 Feb]* 16
Kozyrev Meets Italian Counterpart in Budapest *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Holds News Conference With Jeszenszky *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Holds Talks With Goncz, Boross *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Goes to Poland *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Security Council Official on 'Partnership for Peace' *[Radio Rossii]* 20
Moscow Ready for Partnerhip Talks 'At Any Time' *[INTERFAX]* 20
Ukrainian Prime Minister Talks With Chernomyrdin *[INTERFAX]* 20
No Control Over Ukraine, Kazakhstan Nuclear Arms *[INTERFAX]* 21
Yeltsin, Akayev Discuss Wide Range of Issues *[INTERFAX]* 21
Akayev Holds News Conference *[Radio Rossii]* 21
Kebich, Chernomyrdin Discuss Finance Merger on Phone *[Minsk Radio]* 22
Kebich Arrives in Moscow *[INTERFAX]* 22
Further on Meeting *[Minsk Radio]* 22
Shokhin Reviews Upcoming Monetary Union With Belarus *[INTERFAX]* 22
Yeltsin Letter to Latvia on 'Ethnic Discrimination' *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Commentary on DPRK Nuclear Issue, Third Round Talks *[Moscow International]* 23
Japanese Article on Invasion 'Scenarios' Rejected *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Talks Begin With Japanese Delegation in Moscow *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Prospects for Treaty Discussed *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Navy Sees No Threat from U.S.-Japanese Exercises *[ITAR-TASS]* 24

Naval Commander Gromov Outlines Visit to India *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Iraqi Foreign Ministry Official Arrives for Talks *[Baghdad INA]* 25
'Cordial' talks Held *[Baghdad INA]* 25
Turkey's Demirel on Democracy, Foreign Ties *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 22 Feb]* 25
Moscow 'Not Quite Satisfied' With Turks' Rules on Straits *[INTERFAX]* 27

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues
Zhirinovskiy Calls For Party Unity *[INTERFAX]* 29
Baburin Satisfied With National Union Congress *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 22 Feb]* 29
Ella Pamfilova New Co-Chairman of Democratic Russia *[Moscow Radio]* 30
Former KGB Staffer Fails To Incriminate Baburin *[SELSKAYA ZHIZN 19 Feb]* 30
Scientist Mirzoyanov Released From Jail *[ITAR-TASS]* 30

Economic Issues
Radical Measures Urged To Pay TV Debts *[TRUD 18 Feb]* 30
Finance Minister Comments on 1994 Draft Budget *[Radio Rossii]* 31
Privatization of Major Enterprises Near Completion *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 22 Feb]* 31

Military Issues
Yeltsin Convinced of Army Loyalty to Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Military Fears Loss of Autonomy in NATO Link *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 22 Feb]* 32

Federal Assembly
Duma Votes For Amnesty for Coup Participants *[Moscow Radio]* 33
Further on Amnesty Provisions *[SEGODNYA 23 Feb]* 33
Duma Seeks To Regularize Local Election Practice *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 19 Feb]* 33

Regional Affairs
Text of Russian Federation-Tatarstan Treaty *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 18 Feb]* 34

UKRAINE

International Affairs
Russia Continues To Supply Gas to Country *[INTERFAX]* 37
Turkmenistan To Restore Gas Supply *[UNIAN]* 37
Zlenko Advocates Political Solution for Yugoslav Crisis *[Kiev Radio]* 37
Zlenko Begins Official Visit to Slovakia *[Kiev International]* 37
Minister Says No Capability To Produce Nuclear Weapons *[Kiev International]* 37
Official Refutes Report on Safety of Nuclear Arms *[INTERFAX]* 37
Briefing Held on Nuclear Arms Safety *[Kiev Radio]* 38

National Affairs
Kravchuk Decides Not To Run for President *[INTERFAX]* 38
Decision Questioned *[Kiev Radio]* 38
Crimean Premier Saburov Flies to Simferopol *[INTERFAX]* 39
Crimean Premier Discusses Political Issues *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 19 Feb]* 39
Supreme Council Discusses 9th Session Agenda *[UNIAR]* 40
Enterprises Ordered To Cut Gas Consumption *[UNIAN]* 40

WESTERN REGION

Belarus
Latvian Prime Minister Arrives in Minsk for Talks *[INTERFAX]* 42
Kebich, Birkavs Sign 8 Documents *[BELAPAN]* 42
Kebich Welcomes Cargo Transit Accord *[INTERFAX]* 42
Agreement Reached on Arms Shipments *[BELAPAN]* 42
Supreme Soviet Discusses Agenda *[Minsk Radio]* 42
Makes Key Appointments *[INTERFAX]* 43

Minsk Rally Demands Government Resignation *[Moscow TV]* 43
NATO Military Inspection Team Arrives *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
Government's Additional Powers Confirmed *[INTERFAX]* 44
Shushkevich Criticizes Government *[NARODNAYA GAZETA 17 Feb]* 44

Moldova
Snegur Discusses Ties With Romania *[Bucharest Radio]* 45
Foreign Minister Briefs Press on Warsaw Visit *[BASAPRESS]* 46

CENTRAL ASIA

Tajikistan
Afghanistan Accused of Interfering in Tajik Affairs *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Attacks Across Border Continue *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Rakhmanov Makes Armed Forces Day Address *[Dushanbe Radio]* 47

CAUCASUS

Armenia
Georgian Premier Discusses Gas Supplies With Armenia *[SNARK]* 48
Azerbaijani Military Options in Karabakh Said Exhausted *[INTERFAX]* 48
Combat Activity in Nagorno-Karabakh Resumes After Lull *[SNARK]* 48

Azerbaijan
Preview of Aliyev's Visit to Britain 48
Agenda of Visit Detailed *[Baku International]* 48
Aliyev Comments at Airport *[Baku TV]* 48
Reasons for Visit Viewed *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 22 Feb]* 49
Georgian Premier To Allow Azeris To Monitor Oil to Armenia *[Baku TV]* 50
Foreign Ministry Condemns Shooting of Prisoners *[Baku Radio]* 50
Karabakh Commander on Azeri 'Blunder' *[INTERFAX]* 50

Georgia
Paper Publishes Free Trade Agreement With Russia *[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA 8 Feb]* 51
Parliament Postpones Government Confirmation *[IBERIA]* 54
Troops Repulse Attack From Abkhaz Separatists *[Tbilisi Radio]* 54
Gas Pipeline Security Linked to Russian Mediation *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 22 Feb]* 54
Gas Supplies From Turkmenistan To Continue *[INTERFAX]* 54

BALTIC STATES

Estonia
Meri, Ministers Meet To Discuss Amari Incident *[ETA]* 55
Yeltsin Aide Comments *[BNS]* 55
Foreign Ministry Expresses Regret *[BNS]* 55
Russia Begins To Demarcate Official Border *[BNS]* 56
Tallinn City Court Issues Ruling on Israeli Arms Deal *[ETA]* 56
Arms Company To Correct Shipment *[BNS]* 56
Khasbulatov Guard Arrested, Said Preparing 'Base' *[TRUD 18 Feb]* 57

Latvia
Trade Agreements Signed With Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan *[Riga Radio]* 57
Groups Protest Continued Russian Tenure of Skrunda *[Riga Radio]* 57
Former Defense Minister on Skrunda Radar Base Problem *[LETA]* 58

Lithuania
Brazauskas Urges Peaceful Resolution in Bosnia *[ELTA]* 58
Envoy Summoned Over Illegal Weapon Transit *[Vilnius Radio]* 58
Defense Minister on NATO Partnership, Army *[TIESA 10 Feb]* 58
Fifth Round of Talks Held on Agreement With Poland *[ELTA]* 61
Treaty With Poland Seeks To Preserve History *[BNS]* 61

Moscow Talks End in 'Protocol for a Cease-Fire'

Signing of Protocol Viewed

NC2102214994 Baku TURAN in English 1714 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] Baku, February 21 (TURAN)—During Moscow's meeting which took place on February 18-19, the Defense Ministers of Azerbaijan, Mamedrafi Mamedov, and Armenia, Serzhe Sargisyan signed the "Protocol for a cease-fire". This document was signed by the representative of Nagorno-Karabakh, Bako Saakyan as well. The meeting was mediated by Russian Defense Minister, Pavel Grachev.

TURAN's Moscow's correspondent was told by the Russian Defense Minister that this document could be called "a protocol on intentions". It means that "the parties expressed their wish to cease hostilities, withdraw troops and withdraw from all occupied territories". Until now, an agreement defining the specifics has not been adopted yet. Presently, military experts are working on a draft of these agreements. The same source says that preliminary results of the work will be officially announced by the end of February and a cease-fire will be declared officially on March 1.

At the same time, a reliable employee from the Azerbaijani Ministry of Foreign Affairs told TURAN's reporter that "it is too early speak about that, since it is doubtful that both parties will agree to and implement the adopted obligations. The Armenian party has violated all earlier concluded agreements and occupies Azerbaijani territory", said the employee of the Azerbaijani Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It should be mentioned that the Russian peace initiative which special envoy of the Russian President, Vladimir Kazimirov, put forward in January for all intents and purposes coincides with the terms mentioned in the protocol of the Defense Ministers. Geydar Aliyev opposes Moscow's initiative.

The strict position of Pavel Grachev and his demands that the parties accept the terms of the truce, suggest that he is likely to force Baku [to] accept Moscow's conditions.

These facts are confirmed by the fighting in the Kelbadzharskiy region of Azerbaijan. According to sources in the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry, special Russian troops took part in recent fighting against Azerbaijan. There are Russian troop divisions located in Armenia.

The latest Armenian success in the Kelbadzharskiy region would have been impossible without the participation of Russian troops, say military observers of the Azerbaijan Defense Ministry.

Russia once more applies the infamous carrot and stick to achieve its political aims. Pavel Grachev wants to pursue this policy having already succeeded diplomatically in Georgia.

Karabakh Leadership Rejects Cease-Fire

MK2202093094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 22 Feb 94 p 1

[Pavel Felgengauer report in the "Transcaucasus" column: "The Cease-Fire in Karabakh Is in Question"]

[Text] On Friday, 18 February, in Moscow military delegations of Armenia and Azerbaijan with the mediation of Russian Defense Minister General Grachev and the participation of a representative from Nagorno-Karabakh, and after seven hours of negotiations signed a cease-fire agreement. Yesterday, however, a "source close to the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR]" contacted SEGODNYA to say that "the NKR Foreign Ministry learned about the Moscow agreement from the papers."

"NKR representative Bako Saakyan," who took part in the negotiations at the Russian Federation Defense Ministry on 18 February, indeed is an officer of the NKR Defense Ministry but, according to Stepanakert, "he is in Moscow for medical treatment and has no official powers from NKR official bodies to act as a representative of Nagorno-Karabakh or sign anything on behalf of the NKR government."

Therefore, from the viewpoint of the NKR leadership, the agreement signed in Moscow has no binding legal force. This, as far as can be understood, does not mean that the NKR Defense Army is going to breach the relative cease-fire that has developed de facto in the last few days (from the lessening of hostilities to separate shoot-outs) on the Karabakh fronts. The NKR leadership has not planned any major offensive operations because the positions currently held by Armenian detachments generally suit Stepanakert. As for the terms of the three-stage plan, "On the Cease-fire in Nagorno-Karabakh and on the Border Between Armenia and Azerbaijan," proposed by Russia and partially coordinated last week in Moscow, they obviously do not please Stepanakert.

Date To Be Set Later

PM2202173194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Feb 94 p 2

[Igor Lenskiy report under the rubric "Our Correspondents Report": "Karabakh: Give Peace a Chance"]

[Text] A working meeting in Moscow between V. Sarkisyan and M. Mamedov, Armenian and Azerbaijani defense ministers, with the mediation of their Russian colleague, General P. Grachev, and V. Kazimirov, Russian Federation Foreign Ministry special envoy, ended with a protocol on a full cease-fire in the Nagorno-Karabakh zone. Nagorno-Karabakh representative B. Saakyan also took part in the meeting; he sat separately from the state delegations, a fact which symbolizes the autonomous participation of the unrecognized Nagorno-Karabakh Republic in the conflict.

We were told by the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense that a definitive date for the cease-fire would be established later, following coordination with the political leadership of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Nagorno-Karabakh. According to the testimony of an officer from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense, who took part in the talks, the atmosphere was entirely amicable. Although the full text of the signed document will not be published for certain reasons, the officer made it clear that the protocol also contains more specific agreements.

Which specific agreements? Ramiz Rizayev, Azerbaijani ambassador in Moscow and participant in the talks, stated in an interview with PRAVDA that the withdrawal of the Armenian troops from the occupied areas outside Nagorno-Karabakh has also been coordinated and that this is an indispensable condition of the truce. The approximate deadline—1 March—was also determined, but the schedule and other details are still being discussed by the experts. The status of Nagorno-Karabakh and the fate of the enclave as a whole were not the subject of the talks and will be resolved later on during the peace process.

Despite the first optimistic results of the quadripartite meeting, so far it is difficult to judge whether serious progress has been reached in untying the tight Karabakh knot. There are no clear guarantees of how the commitments that have been assumed will be observed, and when and in what form peacekeeping forces will be put into operation. B. Yeltsin and N. Nazarbayev already tried to reconcile the opponents in Zheleznovodsk in fall 1991 (and, it seemed, not without success), and there have been several hopeful agreements within the framework of the CSCE. However, in the attempt to move from words to action, each time the peace signal turned out to be false. Will today's protocol stand the test of time?

Armenian Foreign Ministry Welcomes Accord

NC2202222394 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1800 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Aram Safaryan held a news conference at the Armenian Foreign Ministry today.

The Foreign Ministry press secretary referred to the cease-fire agreement concluded among Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh, and Azerbaijan in Moscow last Friday [18 February] with the mediation of Russia and noted that it is another step on the way toward peacefully resolving the Karabakh conflict and establishing peace in the region. The Armenian authorities welcome such a step and will do everything possible to find ways toward the peaceful resolution of the conflict. Now everything depends on the stance to be adopted by Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh. It is very important that the agreement on a complete cease-fire was also signed by the representative of Nagorno-Karabakh. This is another confirmation that Karabakh is being recognized as one of the main sides to the conflict.

Safaryan also highlighted that in addition to the cease-fire, the agreement also envisages the deployment of peacekeeping forces between the armed formations of Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh all along the conflict zone. Of course, no one should overestimate the importance of this document, after all, agreements on a cease-fire were concluded in the past but never implemented because of Azerbaijan, but it should not be berated at the same time because this is undoubtedly another step in the difficult process of establishing peace.

The latest developments in the region have generated the need to conduct active diplomatic contacts. This is why Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Zhirair Liparityan met Vladimir Kazimirov, the Russian president's ambassador on special missions, in Moscow. During his 90 minutes of talks with Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin in Ankara on 21 February, they examined issues relating to the peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict. Liparityan will also visit France and Germany, where he will meet Foreign Ministry officials. These contact are important because both countries are members of the CSCE Minsk Group and should be able to clarify views on particular issues relating to the measures envisaged by the CSCE Minsk Group. At the end of the week, Liparityan will visit Iran. Armenia's relations with Iran are thriving and must be expanded in every sphere of cooperation.

Safaryan noted that Armenia aspires to establish good neighborly relations with all its neighbors in the region. In this context, Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan's upcoming visit to Israel is particularly important. The visit is planned for 6-9 March.

Russian Foreign Ministry Hails Protocol

LD2202223794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1817 GMT 22 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Denis Perkin]

[Text] Moscow February 22 TASS—The Russian Foreign Ministry praised a special protocol signed by the Azerbaijani and Armenian defence ministers and a Nagorno-Karabakh military representative, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Tuesday [22 February].

The protocol was signed on February 18 as a result of talks mediated by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and attended by the Russian president's special envoy Vladimir Kazimirov. The document provides for a complete cease-fire and termination of combat operations, as well as for troops disengagement. At the moment. A joint group of experts is working out a procedure for putting this protocol into practice.

The Russian Foreign Ministry called upon all warring sides to strictly observe the reached agreements and to go ahead on their basis with concluding a full-scale political accord.

"The Russian Foreign Ministry welcomes the aspirations of the warring sides to put an end to bloodshed, to help fulfil resolutions by the U.N. Security Council to this effect

and to promote an all-round settlement of the conflict within the framework of the CSCE peace conference on Nagorno-Karabakh," the ministry said in the statement.

Baltic Chiefs Agree on Peacekeeping Battalion

WS2202113894 Tallinn ETA in English 0820 GMT 22 Feb 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 36/94]

[Text] Tuesday, February 22—The Baltic defence forces chiefs of staff agreed on the structure and complement of the Baltic joint peacekeeping battalion. The unit is to consist of 710-715 men. Each of the Baltic States will form one company of 160 men, including 9 officers and 28 non-commissioned officers.

Baltic Military Exercises Completed; Commander Comments

WS2302113194 Tallinn ETA in English 0827 GMT 23 Feb 94

[From 23 February HOMMIKULEHT, PAEVALEHT, pp 1,3; "News Bulletin" No. 37/94]

[Text] Wednesday, February 23—Colonel Arvo Sirel, commander of the Estonian-Latvian-Lithuanian joint manoeuvre completed near Vdru yesterday, stressed that the exercise served its purpose. He admitted that the exercise was largely conditional and that the terrain was chosen in the interest of visibility.

The exercise proved the capability of the Baltic soldiers to operate jointly. Further development of cooperation should concern the unification of communication, tactical control, coast guard and air defence, head of the Lithuanian GHQ training section Colonel Romas ibas said.

Finnish, Swedish, Norwegian and British military attaches observed the exercise.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 23 Feb

LD2302075294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0740 GMT 23 Feb 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 23 TASS—KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA on the Fatherland Defenders Day which is marked in Russia today:

"The Russian army—just as the entire Russia, which left behind its military bases, air defence systems and combat hardware in ex-Soviet republics—lives through hard times".

By way of example, the newspaper mentions the Tajik-Afghan border, from which disquieting reports come in every day, and where Russian servicemen get killed.

"But Russian troops do not quit. They just have no right to leave, for that would mean the death of many thousands of people... As long as the peoples of various coutnries apply to Russia for help, Russia still remains a great military power".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) on the army's economic problems and its prestige in society.

In Russia, the defender of the fatherland has always meant more than just a man with a rifle. But lately the prestige of the officer and soldirer in the eyes of society is not as high as one would like it to be. Quite often the army was undeservedly criticised, the newspaper lamented.

"But the main thing is that however hard the idea of the defence of the fatherland and its proponents were defamed, they survived and upheld the thesis that this idea is a sacred notion and that the defender of the fatherland is the person's social status", the newspaepr pointed out.

TRUD on the state of affairs in Russia's armed forces.

The newspaper comes to a conclusion that the defenders of the fatherland themselves are in need of protection. "Infantry officers are no longer willing to draw guard duty instead of soldiers or to shovel coal in garrison stoke-holds.

"Air pilots get sick of waiting for fuel tanker-trucks, not flying weather. Navy men feel miserable at the quay wall without long-distance voyages...

"The army now wants one thing—to be an army: to drive vehicles, to fire, fly, and navigate the seas, shoot down training targets, bring up men, and live a decent life, without the need to think about referenda and the living bread, or figure in palace coups. The army wants to serve the fartherland, not politicians".

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on the Sarajevo situation and on Russia's role in easing tension there.

The newspaper points out that it is in many respects due to Russia's stance that there has been no "Balkan storm" operation.

"Throughout last week, the entire world closely followed the development of events in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Balkans again turned into 'europe's powder keg' which could go off with unpredictable consequences for the old world.

"Nevertheless, the conflict is not yet over. International diplomacy is yet to make a good deal of effort to undo the tight knot of Bosnian contradictions.

"The West should draw two lessons from the situation taking shape there: that the crisis situation in the former Yugoslavia cannot be resolved behind the back of Russia and in disregard for her interests. The time has come to abandon the approach according to which 'it is the Serbs that should pay for everything', and to place equally tough demands upon all the sides involved in the Bosnian conflict".

TRUD on the Russian Government's economic reform policy.

The newspaper carries an interview with academician Nikolay Petrakov, a prominent Russian economist and director of the academy Institute on Market Studies. The interview dealt with matters aimed at promoting further economic development of Russia.

Petrakov said "the market idea has been discredited". According to him, for two years more than 50 million people in Russia (who account for more than a third of the country's population) "live below the subsistence wage", as against 17 million in 1991 when every tenth was in straits whereas now every third is destitute.

Petrakov believes that it is essential to adjust reforms "which must be with a human face, using the old Czechoslovak slogan." with this end in view, the academician suggests in particular that the taxation system be radically changed and an in-depth agrarian reform be carried out. "private ownership is the main principle of the market while the ownership of land is its foundation," he added.

ROSSIYA newspaper runs an interview with Anatoliy Chubays who describes the course of privatisation.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA frontpages a forecast as to which kind of report will be delivered by President Boris Yeltsin in the federal assembly in the Kremlin on Thursday.

The newspaper believes that the president must show that he is not only prepared "to further and deepen reforms" but is also aware of the entire "complexity and painfulness of the process" and point out the achievements of Russian diplomacy "in resolving the Bosnian crisis".

CIA Employee Arrested for Spying for Russia

LD2302090594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0751 GMT 23 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Palariya]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Feb— The U.S. Government has brought charges against CIA employee Aldrich Ames and his wife Maria Ames, accusing them of spying for the former Soviet Union and then Russia. The U.S. Justice Department said that Ames and his wife were arrested on Monday during a joint operation conducted by the CIA and the FBI. According to the information of the Justice Department, the Ames had been spying against the United States since 1985 and had received more than $1.5 million for that, which they deposited in bank accounts in the United States and abroad.

Yuriy Kobaladze, head of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service press office, whom an ITAR-TASS correspondent contacted by telephone this morning, declined to comment on the case of the arrest of the U.S. couple accused of spying for Russia. However, he remarked that "this question should be put, rather, to the CIA."

At the same time it seems that there's no point in blowing up a political scandal out of this episode. After all, even in a changing world, intelligence remains intelligence with the specific means and interests that are peculiar to it. Incidentally, the leadership of the United States and other Western countries have confirmed on several occasions that they have no intention of curtailing intelligence activity against Russia.

Clinton Orders Protest

LD2302094194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0925 GMT 23 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Vanichkin]

[Text] Washington February 23 TASS—The U.S. Government instituted judicial proceedings against Aldrich Ames, the former chief of the CIA's Soviet Counterintelligence Branch, and his wife Maria, charging them with spying for the former Soviet Union and then Russia, according to a U.S. Justice Department statement circulated on Tuesday [22 February].

Ames, 52, a CIA employee for more than 31 years, and his wife, Maria del Rosario Casas Ames, 41, a Colombian-born naturalised U.S. citizen, were arrested on Monday during an operation carried out jointly by CIA and FBI agents.

According to the Department of Justice, the Ames couple have been spying against the U.S. since 1985 and received more than 1.5 million U.S. dollars in payoff money and deposited the money on accounts in U.S. and foreign banks.

"It is a very serious case," President Bill Clinton told journalists in the White House on Tuesday. When asked whether the cold war is over or not, Mr Clinton declined comment, pointing out that the matter would be tackled in the coming days.

White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said at a briefing on the same day that an Ames case probe had been launched ten months before and that the president had been kept informed of it from the very outset.

Ms Myers said the president instructed the Department of State to lodge an official protest with the government of Russia. Secretary of State Warren Christopher summoned charge d'affaires ad interim of Russia while U.S. Ambassador in Russia Thomas Pickering had a meeting with senior Russian officials.

The White House press secretary said National Security Adviser Anthony Lake and CIA Director James Woolsey had been ordered to lead a "coordinated examination of the national security implications of this case".

"We take this very seriously. We do not like it one bit," Myers told reporters.

"We are having very serious, very forthright discussions with the Russians, both in Washington and Moscow, about this incident... I think in terms of future relationship, we are having those conversations now and we shall just let those take place and see what goes", Ms Myers said.

Deputy Defense Minister on Joint Maneuvers With U.S.

LD2002203794 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1520 GMT 20 Feb 94

[From the "Radio Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Excerpts] The report on the upcoming Russian-U.S. military exercises is an important piece of news. The fact of a joint operation of units of the two armies, which were adversaries in the recent past, is not surprising. However, details of such events are always interesting. Here is Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev, Russian deputy defense minister, with the details for "Slavyanka."

[Begin Kondratyev recording] It is the first time in the existence of the Russian Armed Forces, and, beyond it, in the whole period of the former Soviet Union, that such exercises will take place. They will be joint, and will involve the 27th Motor Rifle Division of the Volga military district of the Russian Armed Forces and the 3d Infantry Division of the U.S. Army.

Currently we—that is myself, as deputy defense minister, the infantry command, and the command of the Volga military district—we have already designed these exercises. According to our design, the main aims of these exercises are:

First—to jointly consider issues of a possible planning of peace keeping operations—which documents are necessary for them, how the personnel should be trained—and also, during the exercises themselves we will practice the real

actions, an approximation to actions of U.S. and Russian subunits in conflict zones, i.e. real peacekeeping operations.

Not only the headquarters of those two divisions, but also some subunits will be involved from both sides, because these are command and staff exercises that also include troops. We agreed that from 200 to 250 men, up to two companies, will take part on each side and will use their usual military hardware and means of reinforcement. I believe that these exercises will go very well, and our officers will obtain certain expertise in planning and deploying peacekeeping operations not only in CIS countries but possibly anywhere in the world. [passage omitted]

Why has this become necessary? From 1992, as you know, we have deployed peace keeping operations in the Dniester area, in South Ossetia, and also in North Ossetia and Ingushetia to some degree—there is a group of troops there. We also we took part, to a degree, in the Abkhaz-Georgian conflict, and the recent agreement between Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin and Mr. Shevardnadze in Tbilisi envisages that Russians may deploy a peace- keeping operation in Abkhazia under the umbrella of the CSCE and maybe the United Nations as well. We have been working toward it.

That is why there is an obvious necessity today to share experiences by way of organizing such exercises. We will continue to have exercises. I believe this is useful for both the Russian and the American sides. It is also useful for other countries. [end recording]

Yeltsin Aide Comments on Serbs Diplomatic Efforts

LD1902140094 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 19 Feb 94

["Exclusive" interview with presidential aide Dmitriy Ryurikov by correspondent Sergey Mikhaliov; place and date not given; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Mikhailov] The Serbs have already shown their response to Russia's request—if I may call it so—and started to withdraw their weapons, but they were rather cautious of the similar demands issued by the UN. How would you explain this?

[Ryurikov] Well you know, I can only say it was simply a matter of knowing how to negotiate, of using convincing arguments, finding the right tone at the right moment, and generally being well-skilled in the art of diplomacy. I think that for all these reasons our arguments were accepted this time.

[Mikhailov] But there are still the Muslims and Croatians. What will they do now?

[Ryurikov] We hope that they respond with goodwill gestures to the goodwill gesture. We also hope that our partners involved in the settlement of this conflict who work in close contact with them will ensure this in the same way as we did our work.

Yeltsin Calls For Summit on Yugoslavia

LD2302120294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1130 GMT 23 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS corespondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow February 23 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin called to hold a summit with leaders of four major NATO members to "put an end to the Yugoslav conflict".

The Russian president said on Wednesday [23 February] that he believes it possible to sign a joint agreement between leaders of Russia, the United States, Great Britain, France and Germany which would end the bloodshed in former Yugoslavia.

"Russia should more courageously and resolutely join the European and world community and other international organisations", Yeltsin told reporters after laying a wreath to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Wednesday in connection with the Day of Motherland Defenders.

"Attempts of certain leaders to keep Russia away from solving international security issues is a discrimination. Russia has to and will participate in all major international events as a permanent member of the UN Security Council", the Russian president stressed.

He added that the NATO decision to bomb Bosnian Serbs "caused indignation not only among Russian diplomats, but among all citizens of Russia".

Russia had to resort to urgent measures which it had proposed to the United Nations a year ago. "The Russian leadership recommended to the United Nations to take Sarajevo under its administrative control as the most disputed city", Yeltsin said.

Russian contacts with Slobodan Milosevic and the trip of special envoy Vitaliy Churkin to Bosnia averted the catastrophe, according to the president.

"In contrast to NATO which announced an ultimatum to Serbs, Russia requested the Serbs to pull back their heavy guns", the president said adding that this was "a psycologically well-thought out move which has worked".

To ensure safety of the Serbs Russia sent 400 peacekeepers from Croatia to Sarajevo at a request of Milosevic. "Despite heavy snow the guys arrived in Sarajevo in time", Yeltsin said.

Kostikov Hails Yeltsin's 'Strong Move' on Sarajevo

PM2202125194 Moscow TRUD in Russian 22 Feb 94 Night Edition p 5

[Interview with Presidential Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov by Aleksey Burmistenko, TRUD international desk editor; place and date not given: "President's Strong Move"]

[Text] [Burmistenko] What is your assessment of the political consequences of the Russian president's actions regarding the Sarajevo conflict?

[Kostikov] B.N. Yeltsin's initiative has led to a major Russian diplomatic victory not only on the European stage but on the world stage as well. Without a single shot being fired, without threatening anyone or posing a risk to our soldiers' lives, and without spending a single ruble, Russia has effectively won a most important battle for its world status.

It is not just that Russia has returned to the sources of its historical political role in the Balkans by protecting the Serbs, who are close to us in religious, cultural, and national terms. Russia has firmly marked out the parameters of its influence in Europe and the world. It has become clear that no small or great power can fail to take account of Russia's position and national interests. It has become clear that no international organization of a universal or military character can make effective decisions unless it takes account of Moscow's voice.

The illusory nature of the notion that any major problem in Eastern Europe can be resolved behind Russia's back has become apparent.

It has become clearer that though it is withdrawing its military contingents from Central and East European countries, in full accordance with Russia's new foreign policy doctrine, Moscow remains a powerful and significant presence in Europe by virtue of its national policy.

[Burmistenko] The communist opposition has recently accused B.N. Yeltsin of diminishing Russia's status as a great power. Is there any basis for this?

[Kostikov] The Russian president's actions and their consequences have revealed a fact that is extremely important for world politics as a whole. They have stressed the role of the great powers, and particularly of Russia, in resolving international conflicts. Let us recall how much time, effort, and talk have been expended by the United Nations and NATO in order to deal with the conflict. As a result of all these diplomatic maneuvers, the world very nearly found itself on the brink of a world crisis which threatened to spill over into war and drag in the major powers.

The Russian president has made a single strong chess move, and the threat has been averted and preconditions have been created for a definitive settlement. So I think it would be more accurate to talk about B.N. Yeltsin's role in restoring Russia's status as a great power.

[Burmistenko] What impact might the resolution of the Sarajevo conflict have on the internal political situation in Russia?

[Kostikov] Let us recall how many spiteful and often venomous barbs have been cast in Boris Yeltsin's direction on this score by our ultranationalists. There are few deadly sins the president has not been accused of: betraying our national interests, forgetting our national dignity, selling Russia off to the evil West, and surrendering Russian positions to the United States, and how much political speculation there has been! Only lazy people have not gone to former Yugoslavia in order to accumulate political capital, so to speak.

Without leaving Moscow, President Yeltsin has achieved what the political chatterers could not and did not achieve. He has actually demonstrated the provision enshrined in the new Constitution which says that the Russian president is the guarantor of the country's national interests. Calmly, without haste and without excessive publicity and ballyhoo, he has shown that as of today he is the indisputable leader of Russia.

It is sufficient to ask just one question: Who other than Yeltsin could currently say things, and say them in such a way, that he will be listened to in Sarajevo, Europe, and the world? Nobody else, in my opinion. This, incidentally, sheds indirect light on the issue which the communist opposition is currently making such a fuss about: Should Russia make haste to hold presidential elections? Should all sorts of commissions be established to investigate the events of 3-4 October with a single and clearly provocative objective—to give the president a "nasty nip."

[Burmistenko] Can we expect some other new steps from B.N. Yeltsin regarding the resolution of the crisis in Sarajevo?

[Kostikov] The president's opponents have always maintained that Yeltsin is unpredictable, extravagant, and impulsive.... Over the past few days, during the Bosnian crisis, we have if you like seen a new president of Russia: A predictable, calculating, and crafty diplomat who is sure of himself and his country's policy. By his initiative, the president has created good preconditions for resolving the crisis. I think this political capital should be carefully developed and built up by diplomatic efforts. Without excluding the leaders of other countries, of course, or international organizations. It seems to me that an international conference at the highest level is called for in order to settle the issue once and for all. And Russians can rest assured that their national interests and the interests of Russia's traditional allies will be reliably protected.

Russian Troops in Sarajevo; Grachev Comments

LD2102212094

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1725 GMT on 21 February devotes its "Details" program to the situation around Sarajevo, the status of Russian blue helmets there, and an comments by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

Announcer Sergey Dorenko opens the program with the following:

"The top echelons of the Russian Defense Ministry are entirely engrossed in the problems of 400 Russian soldiers who became a human shield in the war in Bosnia. Here, in the defense minister's office, decisions are made that determine the lives of our soldiers in Sarajevo, the future of peace in Bosnia, and the fate of the defense minister

himself, even if you are completely indifferent to it. Good evening! Four hundred Russian paratroopers occupied new positions on the southeastern front of Sarajevo. The decision to bring in troops contradicted Moscow's previous plans. We know that before this, on Friday, a sharp address with regard to NATO was to be read out. Moreover, the address was to be accompanied by the complete withdrawal of Russia's blue helmets, and also from the Serb Krajina in Croatia. And suddenly, everything changed. Moscow previously believed that troops should not be put under bullets until the warring sides sign a peace agreement. Here we are. There is no peace agreement and the decision on NATO bombings has not been changed. One should not fully trust what the Serbs or the Bosnians say, but the troops were brought in.'

He goes on to say that the attack on the Sarajevo market might be repeated, but this time Russian servicemen might be affected by it. He recalls that the Serbs failed to complete the disarmament, partly because of severe weather conditions, shortage of fuel, and the immobility of some of the equipment. He recaps the movement of the Russian battalion and problems it encountered on the way. He says: "In Bosnia, our paratroopers met the Ukrainian battalion. The Ukrainians have stayed in Sarajevo for a long time and they said that they were often fired on. Even the outwardly neutral Ukrainians suffer because they are Christians. Thus, a handful of Russian lads turned out to be hostage to Balkan military passions, hostage to the ambitions of military generals from NATO and hostage to terrorist gangs that are not controlled by anyone."

Dorenko then interviews Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, asking: "We have learned that the Russian Government intends in the near future to ask the upper chamber of the parliament to give a go- ahead to sending another 600 servicemen to Bosnia."

Grachev replies: "Our 27th motor rifle division of the Maritime district is practically ready for this purpose, and also 46th motor rifle division in the Leningrad district. They will also fulfill the task fully like 1,200 paratroopers of the 106th airborne division."

Dorenko continues by saying that Russian diplomats in the area of the conflict advised the Russian battalion to move closer to the French in hope that the latter would not be bombed. The Russian Defense Ministry, he adds, hopes that NATO would not carry out "the operation of revenge that was already calculated in details without informing us first." Dorenko says today that Grachev spoke about this with his American colleague.

Dorenko goes on to say that there are areas where there is just 50 meters between the trenches occupied by the Croats, Serbs, and Russians and that there might be serious clashes there in four to six months.

Concluding the program, Dorenko says that "in order not to ruin your mood completely, I leave you in the company of a man who is a bit more optimistic than me, Minister Grachev."

Grachev's statement ends the program: "As for my proposal to bring an additional contingent to the territory occupied by the Muslims, I know that the U.S. plan does not include the use of ground forces, but perhaps we should propose to the British, French, and Germans—they are stationed here close enough and have enough troops and we all know well the three defense ministers—maybe we can reach an agreement on this issue at our next meeting?"

Defense Ministry on Role in Bosnian Peace Efforts

LD2202190194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1705 GMT 22 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow February 22 TASS—The idea of averting threatened NATO air strikes against Bosnian Serb positions was developed by Russian diplomats and military. Diplomatic efforts by Russia, which took an independent stand on Bosnian settlement, were backed by the Russian Defence Ministry's concrete steps.

When asked by TASS to comment on the latest developments in Bosnia, the Defence Ministry's information and press department said Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev had repeatedly called upon NATO to reverse its ultimatum threatening Bosnian Serbs with air strikes and to find a political solution to the armed conflict.

These appeals were voiced during recent meetings in Moscow with high-ranking foreign military leaders—French Defence Minister Francois Leotard, inspector general of the German Bundeswehr Klaus Naumann and British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs Douglas Hurd.

Simultaneously, the Russian defence minister continuously took efforts, through both diplomatic and its own channels, to avert NATO air strikes against any of the warring factions. The Defence Ministry's initiatives were based on the February message by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to the U.N. secretary general on possible ways of settling the Sarajevo crisis.

At his own initiative, the Russian defence minister discussed Bosnian settlement on the phone with his U.S. counterpart William Perry for three times last week. Specifically, during Monday's conversation Grachev, as the Russian president's authorized person, drew Mr Perry's attention to the fact that Bosnian Serbs were gradually withdrawing their heavy weapons for 20-30 kilometers from around Sarajevo or hand them over to U.N. control. The ministers considered possible measures to ease tensions around the Bosnian capital.

According to military observers, this and other moves by the Russian military command rested upon the firsthand assessment of the situation in the conflict zone. Thus, an on-the-spot reconnaissance group from among staff officers of Russian peacekeeping forces deployed in Serb Krajina, as well as a group of the Russian Defence Ministry officials headed by airborne troop commander Yevgeniy Podkolzin were sent to the area of possible air strikes. The

Russian military obtained guarantees from Bosnian Serbs that they would strictly fulfill their obligations on big guns withdrawal. They also looked into all political and organizational issues concerning the deployment of Russian peacekeeping troops in Bosnia, including their possible reinforcement.

As a result, 400 Russian paratroopers were stationed in the buffer zone between the confronting sides near Sarajevo. These military units were transferred here from Croatia with the approval of the U.N. secretary general. Russian Defence Ministry officials believe the presence of Russian peacekeepers in the epicenter of the Bosnian conflict was key to achieving an agreement between Russian special envoy for former Yugoslavia Vitaliy Churkin and the Bosnian Serb leader.

According to Russian military, Russia's peacekeeping troops transferred to the conflict zone need reinforcement. A decision to send to Bosnia extra peacekeepers numbering up to 300 fighters should be approved by the Russian State Duma.

Paper Views Grachev-Perry Bosnia Talks

PM2302084994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Feb 94 pp 1,3

[Sergey Sidorov report: "Moscow Suggests That United States Send Troops to Sarajevo"]

[Text] "Not everyone likes the presence of the Russian 'blue helmets' in the Sarajevo region, but the result is not in doubt: There are no combat operations being conducted and no firefights." So said Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, to his U.S. counterpart William Perry during a telephone conversation Monday evening. The conversation over the "hot line" was conducted by the Russian defense minister from his office and lasted around an hour.

It was the latest in a series of extraordinary telephone contacts devoted to the situation around the Bosnian capital. Army Gen. P. Grachev expressed concern that he still is not clearly aware of the Bosnian Muslim side's intentions as regards the fulfillment of NATO's demands and in particular with regard to the Russian contingent's presence in Sarajevo. He voiced misgivings that provocations against Russian servicemen might bring a drastic deterioration in the situation and disrupt the efforts being made by Russia and the NATO countries. In this connection Pavel Grachev suggested that the U.S. side consider Russia's proposal for a U.S. military contingent to be sent to Sarajevo and stationed on Muslim-controlled territory.

According to Army Gen. P. Grachev, W. Perry promised to brief President Bill Clinton on this proposal. However, the Pentagon chief deemed it necessary to stress that the White House does not as yet have any plans to send its contingent to Bosnia. At the Russian defense minister's request his U.S. counterpart briefly explained the NATO Council's stance on the question of the Serbian side's fulfilment of NATO's demands, which effectively boils down to the idea that, if the Bosnian capital is threatened again, that may be sufficient cause for bombing raids. Without rejecting that approach, Army Gen. P. Grachev in turn again emphasized the immutability of Russia's position, which considers air strikes on any of the conflicting parties' facilities to be intolerable.

At the close of the conversation the ministers expressed their satisfaction with the level of mutual understanding and cooperation. It was agreed to continue their contacts on Bosnia once a week.

When asked by journalists whether the threat of bombing should be considered to have been removed once and for all, Pavel Grachev replied that he thinks air strikes "unlikely." As for the additional contingent from Russia that will be sent to Sarajevo if the State Duma gives its approval, according to the Russian minister, it "will not necessarily be manned by airborne troops." Units of the 27th and 46th Motorized Rifle Divisions have been trained to perform peacekeeping functions [K vypolneniyu mirotvorcheskikh funktsiy podgotovleni.... NB: an alternative reading could be "Units of the 27th and 46th Motorized Rifle Divisions have been readied to perform peacekeeping functions].

Adamishin Views Russia's Role in Bosnia

BR2202160594 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 20 Feb 94 p 4

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin by Sergio Sergi in Moscow; date not given: "'It is a Mistake To Put Russia Out of the Game'"]

[Text] Moscow—[Sergi] How was a turning point on Bosnia possible? How did you construct this diplomatic success?

[Adamishin] We had been moving toward this goal for almost a year and a half. At that time, we had already made a proposal at the UN General Assembly to demilitarize Sarajevo and place it under UN protection. We worked with all the sides but certainly used the leverage that we have had on the Serbs. I believe that it is difficult for anyone else to have more influence than us in this field. It was not that we were defending their position to the bitter end or that we were manifesting our pan-Slavism. The Serbs were aware of the fact that we supported a balanced political settlement.

[Sergi] Therefore they took you seriously.

[Adamishin] Now they believe in us. For this reason, when Yeltsin made a proposal for the unilateral withdrawal of their heavy weapons from the hills around Sarajevo, they said yes. It was the culmination of our efforts as well as a clear manifestation that political methods prevail over the use of force when settling conflicts.

[Sergi] This was a point of major dispute between Russia and the foreign governments.

[Adamishin] Yes. You see, we share more or less the same view as our partners on "what" must be done. However, the positions diverge on "how" it must be done. We have always been supporters of political methods over the use of

force except for very specific, restricted cases regulated by the United Nations. For this reason we did not like the NATO ultimatum which, to tell the truth, shuffled the cards. The talks had already begun and the ultimatum made the Muslims become more uncompromising. The situation became difficult, there was no way out. Russia brought its own influence into play to find a way out. If things go well, if the other side now does what the Serbs have done, we will truly be able to speak of an opening in the Bosnian situation. After Sarajevo, the accord can be further extended.

[Sergi] What guarantees do you have that the Serb side will not have second thoughts?

[Adamishin] The guarantees are those of the Bosnian Serbs' elective assembly. The decision was not made by one man alone. I do not see any reason why they should break their promise. The weapons have been withdrawn.

[Sergi] Your envoy, Churkin, has said that if the Serbs were to change their mind, even Russia will change its position. Is this so?

[Adamishin] I do not want to consider hypothetical situations. And then I would not want to contradict Churkin who has done very well.

[Sergi] We have also been forced to note some rigidity over the past few hours. Yelts[illegible] given a warning, Churkin has again pointed his fir[illegible]inst the ultimatum. Strong notes...

[Adamishin] I have not noticed these strong notes. In my opinion the NATO ultimatum could be judged even more severely.

[Sergi] So you are still using soft notes?

[Adamishin] For me they are. You see, the NATO ultimatum took over from the United Nations to put us out of the game. Or rather, thinking that we would be placed out of the game. I repeat: the ultimatum upset negotiations. I have already said that the Muslims immediately became more inflexible. The ultimatum is a mistake. It was made on the wave of public indignation over the Sarajevo market massacre. I fully share this indignation, but taking decisions of such an importance with consequences that are difficult to calculate on the basis of emotions is a little too much.

[Sergi] There are reports that the massacre was the work of Muslim formations. What do you say?

[Adamishin] If the Serbs had been guilty, it would have been made known immediately. If there had been certain evidence, it would have been made known. We also have some information in our possession that would point to strangers not from the area as being guilty.

[Sergi] Strangers in which sense?

[Adamishin] I am referring to people that arrived in Bosnia from outside...

[Sergi] From where?

[Adamishin] What do you mean from where? It is a known fact that there are various kinds of mujahedin on the Muslim side. This is what I mean when I refer to people that came from outside.

[Sergi] Do you mean that you actually know about this.

[Adamishin] I would not want to swear to the leaks. But they do exist.

[Sergi] Do you have some clue if not certain evidence?

[Adamishin] We can judge on the basis of what the others say. We are distant from these places. The results of the investigations to date tell us that it is not known where the grenade came from. Officially I must keep to these versions. However I have read—and these are leaks from Western sources—about the involvement of forces that are not connected with the parties in question.

[Sergi] It has also been said that with your initiative you have done a favor to the West, which could not wait to get itself out of difficulty after the threat to bomb. Is this so?

[Adamishin] First and foremost, we did something entirely in favor of Sarajevo. If, along the way, we also did a small favor to the West it would not be a bad thing either.

[Sergi] Could there have been a secret accord between Yeltsin and Clinton? The United States could have reasoned this way: If Russia convinces the Serbs to withdraw we will publicly recognize your diplomatic success...

[Adamishin] You do not have a very good opinion of us. You think that we would act upon the suggestions of others. Russia has carried out an independent role, its own role, over the past months. We would like to see it concerted with the positions of the others, but it is the others that sometimes push us out.

[Sergi] What will the next move be?

[Adamishin] In my opinion it should be an attempt to go beyond the Sarajevo accord. That is, the search for a global solution to the conflict. We are close enough to the result.

[Sergi] Churkin has returned to the area of conflict. Why?

[Adamishin] He is going to Croatia where our battalion is. To stay there. To avoid any incitement or wrong moves. He will be in Sarajevo on his birthday.

[Sergi] If there was no secret accord with the White House, are we therefore witnessing the onset of a new rivalry between Russia and the United States?

[Adamishin] I would not want to light the fire on diversities. Certainly, as I have already said, we did not like the NATO ultimatum also because of the fact that it excluded Russia from the decisionmaking room. And all this while the positions on the crux of the problem were quite close. We do not agree that NATO should decide on these matters. If it is a matter of using force in international relations the Security Council must give the authorization.

[Sergi] The partnership is not in danger then?

[Adamishin] We want a partnership with the United States and NATO. But it should be seen as being a two-way street. We do not like this partnership if decisions are made without consulting Russia.

Comments on Political Solutions

LD2202191594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1505 GMT 22 Feb 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] As the crisis in Bosnia has shown, the West needs to learn "a new science of cooperation no less, if not more, than Russia does," the First Deputy Foreign Minister, Anatoliy Adamishin, told Interfax on Tuesday [22 February].

According to him, Russia and the West will "go through periods of complications, since currently they are involved in readjusting their interests."

As the first deputy foreign minister said, Russia's present course is "to regulate the inevitable differences in interests by political means, through discussions, through partnership." "If we are pushed off this path of narrowing our differences, we'll have to search for other ways to uphold our interests, since our interests cannot be discarded. Therefore the West will have to reckon with us in one way or another," Adamishin noted.

"Cooperation with Russia will yield considerably greater results in the efforts to settle conflicts and ensure security in Europe, than relapses into confrontation with Moscow reminiscent of the "cold war," he pointed out.

President Boris Yeltsin's call for holding a special conference between the leaders of Russia, the USA, France, Britain and Germany to reach a political solution to the Bosnian issue remains in force, the diplomat stressed.

According to Adamishin, there is a need to find "a formula for consolidating cooperation." "The formats can be different. One of them is the Security Council and the U.N. in general. Another is what is taking place in Bonn, where high-ranking officials from 12 European Union countries, Russia, the USA and Canada began their consultations on Tuesday."

As Interfax's interviewee confirmed, at the conference Russia will be represented by the special envoy of its president, Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaly Churkin. The meeting will not be attended by the warring Bosnian sides. Its goal is to coordinate the endeavors of Russia and its Western partners to resolve the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The head of Russian diplomacy, Andrey Kozyrev, who is making a tour of the countries involved in the "Visegrad Group," is not planning to visit Bonn, Adamishin said. "The conference is taking place on the level of experts," he explained.

According to the high-ranking diplomat, the turning of G-7 into G-8 can become another form of interaction between Russia and the West. "NATO's Partnership for Peace program can also serve as an area where useful exchanges of views and coordination of differring stands can take place," he said.

With reference to problems connected with a settlement in Bosnia as such, Adamishin said that the withdrawal of heavy artillery and other military hardware from Sarajevo by the Serbs and Muslims is "a serious breakthrough achieved by political means." "Now it's essential to consolidate this first success," he said.

According to the diplomat, Russia has a clear-cut program for further actions in this direction. "It provides for a final demilitarization of Sarajevo. This can be achieved by means of placing the city under temporary U.N. administration, as virtually all plans for settlement envisaged," he said.

"The endeavors to resolve some other painful problems faced in Bosnia basing on the lessons taught by the Sarajevo crisis can pose another step," Adamishin noted.

He does not view the course of "further ultimatums" as "very productive," he pointed out. "As developments in and around Sarajevo have proved, the course of reaching a political solution to the conflict Russia has always pursued yields the best results. To bank on the assumption that all sorts of ultimatums will be repeated, and Russia will continue to break the deadlocks, will not lead to gaining a settlement," Adamishin said.

He said he disagrees with the allegations that "the Serbs would have had to yield to the NATO ultimatum anyway, and that Russia just helped to save their face by asking them to meet its request, not NATO's ultimatum." "Even though this concerns only intentions, nevertheless the possibility that the Serbs would have disregarded NATO's ultimatum cannot be ruled out. Events could have developed differently, which would have led to unpredictable consequences," Adamishin said.

According to Interfax's interviewee, the use of intimidation to achieve one's goal is not the most effective method in diplomacy. "This does not mean that Russia rejects the use of force altogether. Moscow agreed that the U.N. forces in former Yugoslavia can give rebuffs, if attacked. These forces include Russian servicemen, and we cannot leave them unarmed from this point of view. The question is that such decisions should be taken with great considerateness, through the only possible channel—the U.N. Security Council," he stressed.

Russia's first deputy foreign minister called for a continuation of talks between the three warring Bosnian sides. "This is needed to reach a comprehensive solution in Bosnia, which had actually been gained. Subsequently the Muslims went back on it in the belief that they will gain more on the battlefield than at the negotiating table," Adamishin pointed out. "But since the ultimate goal is to achieve a final political settlement, Russia concedes that the plan suggested by the cochairmen of the international

conference on settlement in the former Yugoslavia, Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, can be slightly and finally corrected."

The vice president of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, Aleksandr Vladislavlev, has described President Yeltsin's endeavors to settle the crisis in Bosnia as a remarkable success for Russian diplomacy. The reaction of all the parties concerned to the Russian president's initiative has proved that, "when Russia proceeds from its clearly understood interests and firmly upholds them, it regains the role of a great power," he told Interfax's correspondent.

Vladislavlev urged all political forces, above all the Federal Assembly, to discard prejudices and support the Russian president who has proved to be "an outstanding statesman." He also called upon all political parties and unions to use this opportunity to achieve concord in the country.

Russia's initiative concerning Sarajevo is a substantial success scored by Moscow; it proves that Russia has not abandoned its long- term policy in the Balkans, the well-known Yugoslav-born French businessman, Boris Vukobrat, who leads an international fund for peace and solution to critical situations, told Interfax.

Nevertheless, Vukobrat pointed out that the withdrawal of military hardware from Sarajevo "does not mean that peace in Bosnia has been achieved. However it might become a step toward peace, if the forces involved in it realize that the holocaust in Bosnia has gone too far, and that it endangers not only Yugoslavia, but also Europe as a whole."

He urged the European countries, above all Russia and the USA, to join their efforts to stop those who "wish to fan the flames in Bosnia."

Vukobrat called for preventing Bosnia from being divided into ethnic states. According to him, this would be "a historic mistake," since the liquidation of Bosnia is in the interests of no ethnic group living there. "A divided Bosnia will become a source of constant clashes, fresh wars and casualties," Vukobrat pointed out.

Confirms 'Special Summit'

LD2202180694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1641 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] On Tuesday [22 February] Anatoliy Adamishin, Russia's first deputy foreign minister, reconfirmed to INTERFAX that Russian President Boris Yeltsin's proposal to hold a special summit of Russian, American, French, British, and German leaders to solve the Bosnian issue remains in force.

Adamishin pointed out that the pull-out of heavy artillery and other arms from Sarajevo by Serbs and Muslims means "a serious breakthrough reached by political means." "Now it is important to fasten this initial success," he said.

In Adamishin's words, Russia has a concrete program for further actions. "It provides for final demilitarization of Sarajevo. It can be fixed by the transfer of the city to UN interim administration as was foreseen almost in all the plans for a settlement," he said.

"Solution of several other painful problems in Bosnia, minding the lessons of the Sarajevo crisis, can become the second step," said Adamishin.

He emphasized that he does not view the course for "further ultimatums as a very productive one." "The events around Sarajevo demonstrated that the line of a political settlement of the conflict, being pursued by Russia gives the best results. But one should not be sure that all kinds of ultimatums won't appear every now and then and that Russia will be able to pull the situation away from a dead alley, this will not result in any settlement," he underlined.

Adamishin expressed his dissatisfaction with the version being spread now, that "the Serbs had to go along with the NATO ultimatum one way or another and that Russia only saved their image (face), by asking that they fulfilled not NATO's ultimatum but request. Events could have taken another turn and this could have led to unexpected consequences," he pointed out.

INTERFAX's interlocutor believes that such a method as "shout and everything will be done" is not the most efficient one in diplomacy. "It does not mean that Russia rejects utilization of force once and for all. Moscow has agreed that the NATO forces in the former Yugoslavia can defend themselves in case of an attack against them. There are Russian servicemen in the composition of these forces and we cannot leave them armless in this sense. The thing is that such decisions should be taken cautiously and only along one possible line, namely via the UN Security Council," he said.

Adamishin spoke in favor of continuation of talks between three confronting Bosnian parties. "This is necessary in order to solve the Bosnian conflict in complex, though its solution has been already reached. But after that Muslims took a step back as they believed that they can reach more at the battlefield than at the negotiation table, said Adamishin. But as we speak about a final political settlement, Russia does not rule out that there can be introduced small and final corrections into the plan proposed by Lord Owen and Thorwald Stoltenberg, co-chairmen of the international conference on settlement in the former Yugoslavia."

As the Bosnian crisis has demonstrated, Adamishin said, the West should study "a new science of cooperation more but not less than Russia."

In his opinion, Russia and the West will "experience periods of definite complications because they are getting accustomed to the interests of each other."

Adamishin said that Russia believes that "inevitable difference in interests should be regulated by political means, by means of discussion and partnership." "If we are

pushed from such a way to look for a common denominator in the sphere of mutual interests then we shall be forced to search for other methods to defend our interests. As a matter of fact, interests will no disappear. The West is to take them into consideration this way or other," noted Adamishin.

He also emphasized that "cooperation with Russia will bring greater results for conflicts' solution and establishing European security than recurrences of confrontation with Moscow reminding of "cold war."

Lavrov Reaffirms Position on NATO Ultimatum

LD2002121794 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 20 Feb 94

[From the "Review of the Week" program]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent Vitaliy Buzuyev] Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, in a telephone interview with our correspondent, said the following:

[Begin Lavrov recording] As far as an ultimatum is concerned, we have already set out our position, and President Yeltsin and the Russian foreign minister have stressed—and so has the chairman of the government—that an ultimatum is not the way we consider it is necessary to act in this situation. We have not recognized NATO's ultimatum, and we have stressed the need to work within the framework of the UN Security Council resolutions. These resolutions, as is known, state the need for all sides to take measures to lift the blockade of Sarajevo and they warn the sides that, in the event of the UN peacekeeping forces coming under attack, these forces will respond and will receive support. Only in these instances can the use of force be permitted, and we have explained this in detail in our statements. We have also counterposed attempts to, so to speak, solve matters by an ultimatum with a policy toward political work and vigorous diplomatic actions which have, generally speaking, brought results. Incidentally, we put forward the idea of lifting the blockade of Sarajevo quite some time ago—if you want to be exact, we were speaking about it last year when we proposed more than once that the Security Council should be convened precisely to examine the question of lifting the blockade of Sarajevo, which is the key to a solution to the whole Bosnian problem. [end recording]

[Buzuyev] In the opinion of many observers, the Russian initiative restores our country's position as a player which should be reckoned with in the international arena. Whether we are too late will become clear in the next few days or even hours.

Bonn Meeting on Bosnia Settlement Reported

LD2202223394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2049 GMT 22 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulbitskiy]

[Text] Bonn February 22 TASS—A working meeting of heads of diplomatic services of Russia, the United States and Canada, as well as the EC states and U.N. representatives expressed concern over situation in Bosnian regions and said that developments around Sarajevo caused by the NATO ultimatum and active efforts of the Russian leadership are a major step towards termination of war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Russian Federation was represented by special envoy of the Russian president and Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin.

The negotiations decided to make use of the success achieved by joint efforts in settlement around Sarajevo and continue close interaction with the aim of immediate search for ways to settle the Bosnian conflict by all the warring sides, head of the German Foreign Ministry's political department Juergen Chrobog told a news conference here today.

The meeting praised possible achievement of understanding between the Bosnian Government and Bosnian Croats, said the German diplomat.

Possible uses of heavy armaments pulled back from Sarajevo in other Bosnian regions were described as a major problem. The meeting participants agreed to concentrate on the expansion of security zones, achieve stable truce in Sarajevo through efficient separation of the warring units, prevent the use of pulled back heavy armaments in other regions, ensure free access to the city of humanitarian convoys and restore normal life in Sarajevo with the help of U.N. units.

In the opinion of experts, it is necessary to replace U.N. personnel in Srebrenica and Jepa and ensure free access of humanitarian convoys to the area, immediately open the Tuzla airport for the delivery of humanitarian cargo, achieve truce and pullback of artillery and ensure access of humanitarian aid to Mostar, achieve efficient truce in central areas of Bosnia and ensure free access of humanitarian cargo in Maglaj.

Asked by ITAR-TASS whether the Bonn working meeting discussed a summit on Bosnian settlement, whose idea was considered during a telephone conversation of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and German Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl late last week, the German Foreign Ministry's political department head said participants in the working meeting will inform the state heads of the meeting discussion and results.

The politicians will decide what kind of meeting should discuss Bosnian settlement. The issue was not discussed in detail, meeting participants need some time to think.

Further on Bonn Talks

LD2202145194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1407 GMT 22 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Temnenkov]

[Text] Bonn February 22 TASS—High-ranking diplomats met in Bad-Godesberg in the neighbourhood of Bonn on Tuesday to look for new ways of reaching political settlement of the Bosnian crisis. Taking part in the meeting are heads of diplomatic agencies of Russia, the United States, member-states of the European Union, Canada and a U.N. delegation. The Russian delegation to the forum is led by special envoy of the Russian president and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, Vitaliy Churkin.

Local diplomats say that the meeting has a purely working character. Participants are planned to discuss possibilities of applying measures, used for the withdrawal of heavy weapons, to other Bosnian regions and problems of stepping up relief supplies to the peaceful population of the republic.

An official press-release issued by the German Foreign Ministry says that the purpose of the meeting is to give a joint assessment of the political and military situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the whole. It is necessary to take advantage of a favorable moment in order to take joint and coordinated actions to improve a dangerous situation in which people in Sarajevo and other regions of Bosnia and Herzegovina found themselves, the press release said.

Diplomatic circles in Bonn pointed out that the meeting on the Bosnian crisis had been initiated by German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. Last Thursday [17 February], after consultations in Athens, heads of Russian and German Foreign Ministries suggested an idea of holding such a conference in a joint telephone conversation with the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Later, this idea acquired a more concrete character in telephone conversations between the German foreign minister and his counterparts from EC countries and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

Russian, U.S. Versions of Sarajevo 'Victory' Contrasted

PM2202170594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Feb 94 p 3

[Vladimir Nadein report: "Washington Invites Kozyrev To Share in Sarajevo Victory"]

[Text] Washington—Satisfaction over the victory in many ways depends on what it is called: a success, an achievement, or a triumph. Directly after the withdrawal of weapons from around Sarajevo became a fact and the threat of bloodshed receded, a pleasant scuffle began round the victory cake in various capitals.

The United States was still only just waking up when the mass media were broadcasting the news of exultation in Moscow over the "victory of Russian diplomacy." A little later a report arrived from Prague, where, according to agency reports, Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev said that he sees no direct link between "our actions and the NATO ultimatum," and television repeatedly showed special envoy V. Churkin asserting that it was President Yeltsin's personal participation that was the key to the fact that the withdrawal of Serbian artillery passed off peacefully.

The United States had Monday off. It was Presidents Day, George Washington's Birthday. In view of the national holiday Clinton's team allowed itself a very small indulgence: to assemble a little later than usual at the White House—0900 hours rather than 0730.

After the meeting with his staffers B. Clinton held a press conference. He was far from making any hints at revenge. On the contrary, he thanked his European allies, who, he said, unlike the United States, have many servicemen stationed in the combat zones of Yugoslavia, whose lives are under constant threat.

The U.S. President confidently rejected the idea of Russia's decisive contribution to the bloodless withdrawal of artillery from around Sarajevo. He again stressed that the desired result had been achieved thanks to NATO's decisiveness.

One of the most important points in the President's press conference was that, during the tense days and hours when the ultimatum deadline was moving closer and the threat of air strikes becoming increasingly real, the mechanism of consultations with Russia operated smoothly—both at the presidential level, and between the leading officials of either country: foreign and defense ministers and UN representatives.

However, the victory rhetoric, fully justified as it is in the context of the complex internal political situation in the United States, and especially in Russia, has its own inertia. Beyond certain limits it could grow into a danger for the still fragile cooperation between the countries which has no deep traditions.

Hence the United States has deemed it necessary urgently to invite Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev for consultations in Washington. He is expected to arrive on Saturday [26 February].

Further Diplomatic Moves in Bosnia Planned

LD2202152994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Interview with Presidential Aide D.B. Ryurikov by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Judging by U.S. President Clinton's statement, the United States is insisting on a wider use of diplomatic force to make good use of the precedent in Sarajevo. U.S. diplomats are already pressing for peace initiatives to be extended to other regions of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Today, the aide to the Russian president on external issues told our correspondent in some detail about Russia's stance on this question.

[Correspondent] Dmitriy Borisovich, how will Russia further develop its diplomatic initiative in this area?

[Ryurikov] Well, Russia has not stopped its initiatives, and it will continue to develop them very actively. They will concern the creation of a stable and peaceful situation in Sarajevo—that is, lifting the blockade of this region and possibly placing it under UN administration—and then reaching agreement on roughly the same actions in other security zones on Bosnian territory. Of course these must be peaceful, diplomatic, political solutions, and the process of seeking a political settlement of the problems of Bosnia as a whole must be sharply stepped up. This must be based on the EC plan, possibly with certain changes, trying to achieve a settlement as soon as possible in order to stop all hostilities.

Moscow Urges West To Make Muslims 'Help Unblock' Sarajevo

LD2202205794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1937 GMT 22 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations February 22 TASS—Russia has urged the United States and the European Union "to exert the necessary influence" on Bosnian Muslims in order to avoid any possible provocations in Sarajevo.

"It is crucial in this critical moment to exclude a possibility of any provocations and sabotage of the peace process. Not only Sarajevo's fate but the fate of Bosnian peaceful settlement on the whole depends on this", the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement distributed in the United Nations on Tuesday [22 February].

Russia called on the West "to exert the necessary pressure on the Bosnian Government to make it cooperate with the United Nations in unblocking and demilitarizing Sarajevo", according to the statement circulated as a U.N. Security Council document.

If the U.S.A. and the European Union member countries press on Bosnian Muslims to make them help unblock Sarajevo, the West would act "on the same lines it declared while saying that political settlement of the conflict would be preferable", the document says.

It recalled the Russian initiative which made Bosnian Serbs pull back heavy guns from Sarajevo and added that Russia's "consequent line which excludes any unilateral ultimatums has yielded results".

"We are accounting that goodwill which was shown by one of the conflicting sides in the moment critical to the (conflict's) settlement will evoke equally concrete responsive moves", it reads.

Russia also proposed that after unblocking Sarajevo, the United Nations urgently consider ways of establishing its administration in the city and measures to stregthen other safe areas on the Bosnian territory.

NATO 'Saved From Itself' in Bosnia

PM2202150194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Feb 94 pp 1, 3

[Sergey Sidorov article: "Threat of NATO Air Strikes Removed Thanks to Russia's Decisive Actions"]

[Excerpt] NATO will not have to employ its aircraft in the Sarajevo area, and the symbol of the averted threat is the handful of Russian assault troops who by their presence alone on the snow-covered hills around the Bosnian capital have improved the situation. That is the recurring theme of the reports from Bosnia-Herzegovina carried by the majority of the media.

Clearly NATO was secretly hoping for decisive intervention by Russia, knowing that it would be practically impossible to end the crisis situation around Sarajevo and the whole Balkan conflict without its more active participation. However, projects in diplomats' heads are one thing, real specific moves for which statesmen have to assume responsibility toward their own people and history are quite another.

NATO placed not just itself but the whole world in an extreme situation. Europe could have been faced with an unpredictable escalation of the Bosnian war. NATO could only be saved from itself by Russia, and Russia made that tough decision. By persuading the Serbs to withdraw their heavy arms or place them under UN control Moscow simultaneously contrasted its own reputation as a great world power to NATO's. A reconnaissance group from the staff of the Russian Blue Beret battalion stationed in Serbian Krajina plus a group from the Russian Federation Defense Ministry headed by Colonel General Yevgeniy Podkolzin, commander of the airborne assault troops, were dispatched to the area of anticipated bombing. Their aim was to guarantee the Serbian side's fulfillment of its commitments to withdraw arms and to study all questions of a political and organizational nature connected with the Russian contingent's deployment, including its possible reinforcement. It should be specially stressed that this decision does to a certain extent run counter to Moscow's earlier ban on Russian assault troops' carrying out the order of the UN Forces Command in former Yugoslavia redeploying part of the force to Sarajevo. That ban was more than justified. Moscow could not let its soldiers pay with their lives for a NATO bombing decision which it had nothing to do with. Here the Russian Federation Defense Ministry made efforts to prevent NATO air strikes against targets belonging to any side, including the Bosnian Muslims, both through diplomatic channels and via its own line of communications.

In a personal telephone conversation with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry—there had been three conversations in all as of Monday—Army General Pavel Grachev, the Russian president's authorized representative, drew his American counterpart's attention to the fact that the Bosnian Serbs were systematically withdrawing their heavy artillery weapons 20-30 km from Sarajevo or placing them under UN control. The withdrawal was being carried

out in unfavorable weather conditions—abundant snow and drifts on the roads—which made it considerably more difficult for the Russian contingent to move forward and take up position. Not all the provisions of the ultimatum will perhaps have been met on schedule, but the Serbian side's firm intention to carry it out in full renders strikes redundant. Moreover, the Americans' attention was drawn to the fact that Russian soldiers in a number of spots find themselves on routes along which it was intended to carry out missile and bomb strikes. The U.S. defense secretary was informed of the Russian leadership's view, namely that the Bosnian Serbs' positive decision to withdraw their forces not only removed the question of using aircraft against the sides in conflict but also created real prerequisites for a political settlement of the conflict. In the Russian side's opinion, the positive procress now under way needs joint support.

As we were informed at the Russian Defense Ministry Information Administration, another telephone conversation will take place between Pavel Grachev and William Perry Monday evening, during which measures to relieve the tension surrounding the Bosnian capital will continue to be examined. Statements made by certain hotheads in NATO suggesting that it was premature to abandon air strikes and calls from them to "hold negotiations while simultaneously carrying out strikes" causes Russia special alarm.

Telephone contacts have also been maintained at the highest level. On Sunday, on the initiative of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, a telephone conversation took place between him and President Bill Clinton. As a result of that conversation a final accord was reached on averting bombing in the light of the efforts made by Russian diplomats and military men. The U.S. President spoke highly of Boris Yeltsin's political initiative, which had made it possible to reduce the acuteness of the crisis substantially. It was confirmed during their conversation that all decisions arising from the development of the situation around Sarajevo will be made with UN mediation, as called for by the Russian side. [passage omitted]

Bosnia Optimism Grows Despite U.S. 'Treachery'

PM2202134394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Feb 94 First Edition pp 1,6

[Vladimir Kuznechevskiy article: "Yugoslavia: Moscow's Say Proved Crucial. Russia Handles Sarajevo Crisis in Seven Days"]

[Text] The West was unable to resolve the Sarajevo crisis in two years. Moscow has handled the task in seven days.

However two weeks ago the U.S. leadership and NATO circles did not even think of Russia being able to make a decisive contribution to resolving the Bosnian crisis. This was manifest particularly clearly when the ultimatum was being delivered to the Bosnian Serbs. Admittedly, the West suddenly had a thought and authorized the British prime minister during his visit to Moscow to slightly ease the awkwardness. Paris LE FIGARO wrote the following on this score: "The task facing the head of the British Government is no easy one: He has to find a compromise that will enable Moscow to save face and once again enter into dialogue with the West regarding a settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina after the double insult for Russia of the NATO ultimatum and Bill Clinton's statement to the effect that the Kremlin's position does not pose a 'major problem.'"

You can see from Western press articles how formal Major's mission was in this respect. The same LE FIGARO wrote in an article headlined "Yeltsin's Dilemma: Between the West and Serbia": "For Moscow it is a question of the need to find the elusive solution [prizrachnoye resheniye] that would enable it not to alienate the West and not betray the 'Slav brotherhood' linking Russia with the Serbs. That is why, after the announcement of the NATO ultimatum, Russian leaders have made—so far with relative success—a series of attempts to avoid inflicting air strikes on the Bosnian Serbs' positions."

Moscow's involvement did not, however, prove at all "elusive." As soon as the ultimatum was adopted the Russian Foreign Ministry gave notification that it regards it as "illegitimate and not in line with UN decisions," and during a conversation with John Major Boris Yeltsin spoke in even more forthright terms: "Some people are trying to resolve the Bosnian issue without Russia's involvement. We will not permit that."

Bill Clinton was forced to promise Boris Yeltsin 11 February during a telephone conversation that finally took place after several abortive attempts that he would persuade the Muslim government of Bosnia not to quit the negotiating process in Geneva in exchange for the Russian president trying to persuade the Serbs to withdraw their heavy artillery and tanks from Sarajevo.

There is every indication that the U.S. President made this promise lightly since he had little faith that Yeltsin would indeed have any success in this endeavor.

However, Moscow's involvement proved more than vigorous, it proved crucial.

Thursday morning Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian president's special representative, gave Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic a personal message from Boris Yeltsin.

The text of the message indicated that Moscow had pondered everything down to the psychological nuances.

Treating Serbian leaders with respect, the Russian president made no demands on them. He asked them to withdraw their heavy artillery and tanks from Sarajevo and in exchange proposed that 400 airborne troops from the Russian battalion of the UN peacekeeping forces stationed in Eastern Croatia would take up the positions they would vacate in the village of Lukavica near the Bosnian capital. (Incidentally, the Russian word "prosba" [request] sounds very mild in Serbian, where it is "molba"-').

The Serbs realized straightaway that the Russians had proposed to offer their lives as a guarantee of peace in Sarajevo. After all, if NATO forces inflict air strikes, the bombs could land on Russian airborne troops and that would immediately bring a fundamental change in the situation throughout Bosnia.

President Clinton could not contain his amazement, primarily at Yeltsin's decision to send his peacekeeping contingent from Croatia to Sarajevo (his administration's spokesman Myers announced this).

Nor was it coincidence that Moscow did not say a single word about the NATO ultimatum. What is more, when the Russian Air Force Press Service announced Saturday 19 February that Russian airborne troops would not be redeployed until NATO lifted its ultimatum, the Russian Defense Ministry immediately issued a rebuttal, saying that the Russian Air Force Press Service had overstepped its authority.

At 1500 hours Thursday the Serbs gave their consent to Yeltsin's proposal. Friday 18 February they began withdrawing heavy arms from Sarajevo, and at midday on Saturday Russian airborne troops began moving from Croatia to Bosnia. They arrived on the spot Sunday evening after a day's march through the mountains in heavy snow.

As it is customary to say in such cases, there are no winners or losers in Sarajevo, peace is the victor. However, this popular expression is hardly appropriate here. Things are not like that in politics.

The Serbs have clearly won by withdrawing their heavy arms from Sarajevo: Now in the event of renewed explosions in Sarajevo no one wil be able to blame Serb artillerymen or tank personnel for this.

Having obtained peace in their capital, the Muslim leadership of Bosnia-Herzegovina has lost an opportunity to lift up its hands to the West asking it to inflict air strikes as punishment on the "infidels" who are allegedly annihilating civilians.

The West has obviously won; it does not now have to get embroiled in the adventure of outright military confrontation with a staunch and bellicose people, with the threat of creating a second Vietnam for itself (whether this applies to France or the United States). Henceforth efforts can be focused solely on finding a truly peaceful means of settling the conflict.

Moscow has unexpectedly found itself ahead; for a week it demonstrated to the international community the exceptional diplomatic potential of a great power.

So, many people have gained, although not everyone.

But it is nonetheless hard to get away from the impression that this turn of events is not to everyone's liking.

At first Moscow's initiative was greeted by the West with obvious (and seemingly sincere) relief: It would not have to become embroiled in an adventure involving air strikes Monday and put its head on the block.

The point is that, according to Western intelligence services, the Serbs' armed formations in Bosnia have a large number of long- range fixed-site antiaircraft missiles with a range of up to 40 km and an even larger number of shoulder-launched infantry missiles for use against aircraft.

What is more, the Americans well remember that in Vietnam the U.S. Air Force incurred its greatest losses not from missiles but from massive antiaircraft fire from the ground, against which the electronics that they used successfully in Iraq are powerless. In order to avoid losses from that kind of fire fighter bombers would be forced to fly at a higher altitude, but the accuracy of the aggressor's fire is dramatically reduced as a result of that kind of maneuver.

However, when the first shock of Moscow's resounding diplomatic success had passed in the West, the United States seemed to switch to ways of blocking the new Russian peace initiative.

In particular, when on Friday Andrey Kozyrev, building on the success achieved Thursday, forthwith suggested convening an international peace conference on Bosnia-Herzegovina next week in order to find a full solution to the Bosnian problem. The West attempted to "scupper" this new Moscow peace initiative: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said that long and careful preparations are needed for such a conference, which will take a great deal of time.

Following this Washington, the BBC reported, has made great efforts to persuade the Croats and Muslims to remain in a single Bosnian state. A very well thought-out move. If it was successful, the Serbs in Bosnia would be left totally isolated. In that case the territories they are holding could be declared occupied and the Serbs could thus continue to be kept outside the world community. They could thus be pressured with a view to forcing them to leave the territories they control.

There is every indication that Washington is trying to put its own plan into practice. Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic and Bosnian Prime Minister Big Haris Silajdzic had a separate meeting in Germany Saturday to discuss a possible solution to the Bosnian problem.

The meeting bore no fruit. That is not surprising. A month earlier Bosnian and Croatian Presidents Alija Izetbegovic and Franjo Tudjman met in Germany for the same purpose and were also unable to reach any agreement. It is not only that the interests of these two forces in Bosnia are diametricaly opposed. It is hard to imagine these two political forces being able to exist within a single state after two years of mutual enmity and after mercenaries from other Muslim countries being involved in the Bosnian Muslims' combat operations against the Croats.

The question does of course arise: What is the origin of this treachery? Clinton did after all promise to put pressure on

the Muslims, propelling them toward peace, but U.S. diplomacy has begun to take the exact opposite course. Why?

The answer must be sought in public opinion. It now has a very strong influence on both Yeltsin and Clinton.

The BBC reports that, according to the results of a Russia-wide public opinion poll, over 66 percent of Russian citizens would regard NATO strikes on the Bosnian Serbs as an attack on Russia. And over 77 percent of respondents opposed NATO's threat to bomb Serbian heavy guns in positions around Sarajevo.

What realistic politician could have ignored such an explicitly expressed opinion from his own people?

It is the same in the United States. Clinton's promise to put pressure on the Muslims had not had time to be made known to the U.S. public at large before U.S. newspapers bristled with headlines describing what the U.S. President said as "ominous" and his position "an utter disgrace."

Nonetheless there is every indication that it will be very hard to stop the Bosnian peace settlement process after Russia's initiative. Friday Radovan Karadzic said: "We think that the war in Sarajevo is finally over." And Sunday 20 February Yasushi Akashi, the UN secretary general's special spokesman in the former Yugoslavia, voiced an even more optimistic opinion of the situation, saying that the Bosnian crisis as a whole may come to a peaceful close over the next few weeks.

Kozyrev Meets Italian Counterpart in Budapest

LD2202123894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2229 GMT 21 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS special corespondents Sergey Zhirnikhin, Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Budapest, 22 Feb—A whole range of problems linked with the peaceful settlement of the situation in Bosnia were discussed in Budapest late on Monday evening by Andrey Kozyrev and Beniamino Andreatta, the Russian and Italian foreign ministers.

The meeting took place at the request of the Italian minister, who flew to Budapest especially to hold talks with his Russian colleague.

In an exclusive interview to the ITAR-TASS correspondents at the end of the meeting, which had been held in the Russian Embassy, Beniamino Andreatta said: "I am heading for Brussels, and I made a request by telephone for this meeting to be organized so that I could discuss personally with Andrey Kozyrev, first of all, the situation in Bosnia and the 'happy ending' to the settlement of the Sarajevo problem. We agreed on the need for joint work on the problem of protecting other populated areas in Bosnia as well."

The main thing, the Italian minister stressed, was "not to lose momentum" in consolidating the good results now achieved in settling the situation around Sarajevo. In Beniamino Andreatta's view, this will be the first step on the path towards peace in Bosnia as a whole. Secondly, the minister continued, new impetus must be given to the process of finding a political settlement of the issue, holding various forums to this end. Also discussed was the "format" of some such meetings and negotiations.

In addition, we examined the European Union's plan of action and "worked on it" in order to determine "more realistic" borders and possibilities for the exchange of territories, and also some forms of arbitration, taking account of the region's particular historic, cultural, and ethnic features. In the minister's view, this will make it possible to arrive at a genuine settlement of the conflict in Bosnia.

It was also necessary to exchange opinions on the political future of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the minister continued, "and at least as a start we agreed on the possibility of maintaining Bosnia's present borders."

The Italian government is in favor of any settlement of the conflict which would predetermine cooperation at least between two ethnic national groups in Bosnia, and if it is impossible between all three, Beniamino Andreatta said.

Also discussed in detail was the problem of the sessions of countries of the Seven and the Eight, and the organization of genuine cooperation between the world's leading states. Preference must be given in this to examining economic aspects of such cooperation within the format of the Seven, and political aspects within the format of the Eight.

They also discussed the problems of the CSCE in the context of Yugoslav problems, and the situation in the Baltic countries (the minister intends to visit the Baltic countries in the near future). I believe that with the heightened activity of the U.S. and Russia to settle the situation in Bosnia the situation has significantly improved and the possibilities for a peaceful solution are now much more real than before, Beniamino Andreatta said in conclusion.

In turn, Andrey Kozyrev stressed in an interview with the ITAR- TASS correspondents that an extremely wide range of problems and ideas had been discussed. But above all attention had been focused on the question of how to move forward towards a settlement, in order to profit from the possibilities which have opened up for a political settlement and the enforcement of a security zone in Sarajevo and other areas. It is necessary to push forward the process of seeking a peaceful settlement in Bosnia as a whole.

Italy is now the coordinating country of the Seven, and we have examined the conditions for holding sessions of the Eight on political issues. We believe it is extremely important to establish full-scale relations of partnership with the U.S., Italy, and other states in the Seven on political aspects. Otherwise how can we achieve practical results in Bosnia or elsewhere?

Andrey Kozyrev believes that it is wrong to adopt "separate unilateral decisions; progress should be reached in the settlement of the Bosnian crisis by joint efforts." This

constituted the essence of our meeting, for which I am extremely grateful to the Italian minister, Andrey Kozyrev said in conclusion. "Now it is my turn to catch my Italian colleague somewhere on the move", the Russian minister laughed.

Holds News Conference With Jeszenszky

LD2202123794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1203 GMT 22 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Sergey Zhirnikhin and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Budapest February 22 TASS—"Our talks with Andrey Kozyrev focused on problems of bilateral relations between Moscow and Budapest," Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky told a joint press conference here on Monday evening [21 February].

According to the Hungarian minister, Russia is today the second largest economic and trade partner of Hungary, while the latter holds eighth place in the list of Russia's major economic partners. "Very important for the development of our cultural cooperation are contacts between the religious leaders of the two countries," the Hungarian minister said. He recalled in this connection that Budapest would be visited on March 3 by Patriarch of Moscow and All of Russia Aleksius II.

Dwelling on the Hungarian foreign policy's orientation, Jeszenszky noted that integration into the European structures of the North Atlantic treaty Organisation and the European Union were of primary importance for Budapest, as well as the country's active participation in the CSCE process and in the implementation of the "Partnership for Peace" programme. Touching on the situation in Bosnia, the Hungarian foreign minister stressed that "the stands of Budapest and Moscow on this question have no serious distinctions".

"Russia attaches great importance to relations with Hungary," Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told the press conference. "This is specially noted in the treaty between the two countries, recently signed at summit level." The minister expressed the hope that it would be ratified by the new Russian parliament.

"I wish to back my friend Jeszenszky's words about the prospects for relations between Russia and Hungary," Kozyrev stated. "Russia has no hegemonic or neo-imperialist designs in Central and Eastern Europe. The attraction of the peoples of our countries towards each other is perfectly natural," he added.

Holds Talks With Goncz, Boross

LD2202144494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1425 GMT 22 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Sergey Zhirnikhin, Georgiy Shmelyov]

[Text] Budapest February 22 TASS—Hungarian President Arpad Goncz congratulated Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, currently here on a working visit, on success of the Russian initiative for peaceful Bosnian settlement.

He said the initiative has saved the world from troubles, sufferings and escalation of combat operations in former Yugoslavia. In the words of Goncz, the major Russian political success consolidated its international authority and position on the world scene and enabled NATO to overcome the post-ultimatum situation with dignity.

Goncz reminded Kozyrev of his latest meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin when the Hungarian state head said Russia will continue to play a key role in solution of European problems.

On the same day, Kozyrev was received by Hungarian Prime Minister Peter Boross. The premier praised Russian diplomatic efforts to settle situation around Sarajevo and said decisive and constructive Russian efforts enabled Hungary to overcome a difficult situation, as it is geographically close to the Yugoslav conflict zone.

Goes to Poland

LD2302073094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2340 GMT 22 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Aleksandr Potemkin and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Krakow, 23 Feb—If all Russo-Polish talks go as well as the present talks, the path to friendship and cooperation will be covered much faster. That was how Andrey Kozyrev and Andrzej Olechowski, the foreign ministers of Russia and Poland, summed up the progress and results of the bilateral talks that ended here late in the evening on 22 February.

During the meeting, the whole spectrum of relations between the two states was examined, said A. Kozyrev, replying to questions from ITAR-TASS correspondents. A number of very interesting initiatives were put forward, covering the economy, culture and social relations between our countries.

Unfortunately, the Russian minister noted, many specific accords reached during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Warsaw last August have not been fully implemented. That is why the present talks are extremely important. We have met in order to "puff along," as Mr. Olechowski says, that is, to urge these processes on. We are on the right path, A. Kozyrev pointed out when appraising the state of bilateral relations. In the Russian minister's opinion, the part to be played by Poland and other Central European countries in building a united Europe is very important. Equitable Russo-Polish cooperation should be a substantial factor in it.

Our states official relations "do not look at all bad," A. Olechowski observed. The task now is to fill them "with benevolent content." Mr. Kozyrev and I have discussed a number of concrete actions and have made a number of concrete decisions: "We are thinking about some, we are working on others, and we have agreed on a third group."

All that is the "puffing along," as my counterpart put it jokingly, the development of our relations .

Commenting at the request of the ITAR-TASS correspondent on the thoughts of the Polish mass media on the present role of Russia—as "adversary or partner of Poland," A. Olechowski said: "Neighbors should never be adversaries. The question now is how to pave the way as quickly as possible from relations of neighbors to relations of very good neighbors, and then to relations of a friend." It is understandable that it is impossible to achieve this in a few days, but we should try to achieve it as quickly as possible, the Polish minister pointed out.

Speaking about Russia's attitude to the problem of Poland joining NATO, A. Kozyrev noted that this question had been discussed "in a very confidential and realistic way." It is now necessary to concentrate on participation in the "Partnership for Peace" program, the minister said. There was no ruling out one country or another joining NATO. And these countries should find their own way to making a decision. It is possible, he pointed out, that Russia may join NATO too. But there may also be other options. A machinery of interaction of the partners has already been created now. This is the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, A. Kozyrev pointed out.

Security Council Official on 'Partnership for Peace'

LD2102161294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] NATO's Partnership for Peace program adopted in Brussels at the proposal of the United States has partially eased the tension which arose over the intention of several East European countries to join the bloc. Our correspondent Marina Chernukha asked Valeriy Manilov, deputy secretary of Russia's Security Council what consequences this program would have for Russia.

[Begin Manilov recording] Russia's attitude to this program is positive. I have in mind the fact that at no stage whatsoever of the implementation of the Partnership for Peace program will any steps be taken that will represent a threat to Russian security. The NATO bloc will not be expanded to the detriment of the interests and security of Russia. In other words, states will not be accepted into this organization—at least not in haste. By no means all these states have assessed the idea of partnership and by no means all of them have approached the idea of partnership from the point of view of establishing European security as a whole.

The threat arose of the creation of a kind of cordon sanitaire close to the borders of Russia. We categorically, very toughly and firmly opposed such a turn of events and the United States and the NATO leadership have heeded our stance and taken account of it. And now what is at issue—at the level of political cooperation, at the level of expanding economic ties, at the level of developing military technical cooperation—is the possibility of various states joining this program over a very prolonged period, as they become ready to do so.

The specific mechanisms for the implementation of this program still have to be devised in detail—and this is being done both in NATO and the United States and in our country. It is premature to talk of any state implementing it. Russia is ready, in principle, for cooperation and partnership, even more so for the sake of peace. We are working to strengthen security and peace. On what principles? If we are talking of partnership, then on the principles of equality, mutual benefit, respect for one another and on no other principles. [end recording]

Moscow Ready for Partnership Talks 'At Any Time'

LD2102171194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1606 GMT 21 Feb 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] Moscow is prepared to start talks on joining the "Partnership for Peace" program at any time, a senior member of Russia's Foreign Ministry told Interfax on Monday [21 February].

According to him, the conference that was to be held between Russian and NATO experts on Monday has again been postponed because of developments in the Balkans.

Russia would like to clarify some issues before joining the NATO program, Interfax's interviewee said. "This is why the upcoming conference will have the nature of a briefing," he noted. NATO experts will have to elucidate their vision of Russia's participation in the partnership program," he said.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Talks With Chernomyrdin

LD1802204494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1909 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Acting Prime Minister of Ukraine Yuhym Zvyahilskyy who arrived on an informal flying visit to Moscow has held one hour of private talks with his Russian counterpart Viktor Chernomyrdin, Russian diplomats in Moscow told INTERFAX. Soon after the talks, the Ukrainian official flew out to Kiev to continue work as usual.

No word was given of the details of the meeting. However, a senior Russian diplomat linked Zvyahilskyy's surprise visit to a recent stay in Moscow by pro-Moscow Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov. Meshkov had held negotiations with top government and parliamentary officials in the Russian capital inviting leading economist Yevgeniy Saburov to head the Crimean cabinet of ministers.

The two sides may have also discussed the Rbl[Rubles] 1 Tn[trillion] debt Kiev has run for gas imports from Russia by the end of January, the diplomat said. Although Russia's chief gas exporter, Gazprom, threatened to cut off gas supply to Ukraine, it has so far suspended the measure. The diplomat believes the two prime ministers may have reached agreement by telephone on how to settle the debt and discussed the details on Friday.

No Control Over Ukraine, Kazakhstan Nuclear Arms

LD2202212194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Commander of the Russian long-range nuclear weapons General Igor Sergeyev says Moscow is no longer in control of the safety of nuclear weapons deployed in Ukraine.

In an interview with Interfax on Tuesday, he said that the missile troops deployed in Ukraine were no longer under Moscow's control after the commanders of the 43rd and 46th missile divisions took an oath of allegiance to Kiev.

Sergeyev spoke of being unable to control troops "whose officers expressed loyalty to another state". He said he outlined the emerging situation in letters to Ukrainian and Russian Defence Ministers Vitaliy Radetskyy and Pavel Grachev.

At the same time, the Russian official pointed to progress in the negotiations on the pullout of nuclear weapons from Ukraine. He said the first batch of nuclear weapons was to be transferred to Russia on March 28.

Sergeyev said that tension was also running high over the nuclear weapons deployed in Kazakhstan whose leadership prevented the transfer of weapons to Russia and opposed the plan for taking obsolete missiles off combat duty. Sergeyev says the dismantling of those missiles should have been started in 1993 but nothing has so far happened.

In his words, Moscow has no problems with the servicing or withdrawal of nuclear weapons deployed in Belarus. "These have remained under our jurisdiction", said the general. He also said that one of the three missile divisions deployed in Belarus had been pulled out and disbanded as scheduled.

The two remaining divisions are to be withdrawn and demobilized in the first half of 1996. Sergeyev says the withdrawal process will taken in stages: four regiments will be withdrawn in 1994 and the other four a year later. This will bring an end to the pullout of nuclear weapons from Belarus. The two divisions are to be disbanded in the first half of 1996.

Sergeyev says that his troops' combat readiness is just as high as in the period of stagnation in the former Soviet Union when military supplies were good. In his words, the withdrawal of obsolete missiles were being carried out as scheduled.

Yeltsin, Akayev Discuss Wide Range of Issues

LD2202132494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1215 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin and President of Kyrgyzstan Askar Akayev met in Kremlin on Tuesday morning [22 February].

Boris Yeltsin's press service announced that the two presidents had discussed a wide range of issues pertaining to bilateral trade and economic cooperation and the status of ethnic Russians in Kyrgyzstan.

The two officials also exchanged views on the situation in the CIS and on ways of strengthening it; the situation in Central Asia and joint efforts to settle the Tajik conflict, and on other international problems.

Akayev said that he had brought in a package of proposals on solving the problem of ethnic Russian's migration from Kyrgyzstan. Following their discussion with the Russian president, Akayev will present them to the CIS summit to be held in March. "I think we must share our ideas with all of the CIS leaders because this is a problem of common concern," he said.

He told Yeltsin that the situation in his republic was stable and quiet.

Akayev Holds News Conference

LD2302023994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2300 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Kyrgyzstan's President Askar Akayev was in Moscow on a visit. His meeting with Russia's President Boris Yeltsin took place in the Kremlin. Among the matters discussed was a proposal for resolving the problem of the emigration of the Russian-speaking population from the republic. Akayev put forward an initiative to conclude an agreement on the protection of the ethnic minorities within the framework of CIS. In the afternoon Kyrgyzstan's president held a news conference. It was attended by our correspondent Roman Babyan.

[Babayan] At the meeting with journalists, Askar Akayev stated that many problems now facing the new sovereign states have been brought about by the disintegration of the USSR, including the problem of the non-native population, such as the Russian-speaking population in these states. The Kyrgyz leader said the emigration of the Russophone population from the CIS countries to their historic homeland has reached a critical dimension. Akayev voiced his concern about the outflow of Russian speakers from Kyrgyzstan. Of late, some 100,000 people had left the republic. Among the reasons causing the Russophone population to emigrate from the CIS countries and, in particular from Kyrgyzstan, Askar Akayev noted the following: the language problem, the socio-economic problem, and the so called discomfort problem connected with interethnic conflicts. Speaking of the specific measures being taken by the Kyrgyzstan leadership to contain emigration, Askar Akayev said in particular:

[Begin Akayev recording] We are doing everything to preserve the role and place of the Russian language in Kyrgyzstan. We have preserved teaching in the Russian language in schools, institutions of higher learning, the training of specialists in Russian philology in the same volume as existed prior to 1990. We have opened the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavonic University, the first in our region and indeed perhaps the only one in the CIS countries, which will become the center of Russian culture, so as to

impart promise to them, so that they will have confidence and not tackle the problem by emigrating. [end recording]

[Babayan] Continuing, Kyrgyzstan's president called on all leaders of the CIS countries to pool their efforts and to take all necessary measures to contain emigration flows.

Kebich, Chernomyrdin Discuss Finance Merger on Phone

WS1802142694 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1100 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] On Thursday [17 February] evening, Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich had a telephone conversation with his Russian counterpart, Viktor Chernomyrdin. According to the press service of the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers, issues regarding the unification of Belarusian and Russian monetary systems and the work of experts who are drafting the corresponding documents were discussed. The premiers agreed to meet as a matter of urgency and discuss in detail the final draft agreements. Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich left this morning for Moscow.

Kebich Arrives in Moscow

LD1802175294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich has arrived in Moscow Friday to meet unofficially Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chenomyrdin.

Reliable sources in the Russian Government have told Interfax that the talk in private took place in a government residence near Moscow. The talks centered on the unification of the two countries' monetary systems. The Belarusian side insisted on finalizing the talks on the subject and on drafting relevant documents and on setting the date.

Interfax has no information about the position of the Russian side. Kebich plans to return to Minsk late at night on Friday.

Further on Meeting

WS2102101394 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] As reported in the Republic's media, a working meeting between Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was held on 18 February in Moscow. Summarizing the results of the meeting, the two prime ministers emphasized that this was a final discussion on the mechanisms for both countries' functioning under a single monetary system. At the prime ministers' request, groups of experts will complete drafting documents in two or three days. On the Belarusian side, the government team is headed by CIS Executive Secretary Uladzimir Zalamay. The final signing of the documents is expected in the near future.

At the meeting, the main principles of unification of the monetary systems were outlined—absolute unification of the price policy and mutually beneficial exchange rates of currencies of both states.

Shokhin Reviews Upcoming Monetary Union With Belarus

LD2202183794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1643 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] The forthcoming unification of Russia's and Belarus' monetary systems on a mutually beneficial basis requires development of a precise mechanism to implement bilateral agreements, Russia's Economics Minister Aleksandr Shokhin declared in his interview with journalists on Tuesday [22 February]. He pointed out that experts of both countries are currently working out such a mechanism.

In Shokhin's words, the parties have actually reached an agreement to establish a 1:3 correlation between Russian rubles and the Belarusian currency. He explained the mechanism used for determining this exchange rate, namely by putting together the exchange rate and the rate based on the purchasing ability via the consumer basket. The fist one (the exchange rate) is 1:4 and the second is 1:2.5. Shokhin noted that there exists an intention to set different cash and non-cash rates, to make it softer for the population and tougher for enterprises.

According to Shokhin, the issue of the time-frame for the agreement is still being debated. The Belarusian side, which wants to receive an access to Russian resources as soon as possible, advocates simultaneous implementation of agreements. Russia stands for a gradual one, in the course of half a year during which a state-by-stage reduction in customs tariffs will take place.

The minister pointed out that Russia and Belarus had made a preliminary conclusion at the inter-state level stating that the reached agreements must be ratified by both states' parliaments. "It means that Russia should so thoroughly develop all aspects of the accords that everybody can understand that it does not loose but also gains from the unification of two monetary systems," emphasized Shokhin.

In his words, advantages gained by Russia include solution of transit problems and direct access to Europe. This would help to solve the problem of Russian oil export not by means of inefficient rail way shipments but by means of an oil pipeline laid to Polotsk and Mozyr (Belarus) and then further to Europe.

Shokhin said that 90 percent of Belarusian industry works for the Russian market which is why lowering prices for fuel and energy resources would help to lower prices for goods imported from Belarus.

Yeltsin Letter to Latvia on 'Ethnic Discrimination'

LD2202175794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1624 GMT 22 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Dmitriy Chubarov]

[Text] Moscow February 22 TASS—Legalization of ethnic discrimination in Latvia "becomes a prime concern of the

Russian president, the government and the public," says a letter of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Latvian leader Guntis Ulmanis.

The letter was passed over on Monday [21 February] by the Russian ambassador to Riga, sources at the Russian Foreign Ministry's press and information department told ITAR-TASS here today.

The Russian president stressed the priority of settlement of the citizenship problem in Latvia with a bilateral agreement. In his words, integration of ethnic Russians with public life of the independent Latvian Republic would open up a new chapter in relations with Latvia, "with which Russia is connected with thousands of ties and wants to have good-neighbourly relations and mutually beneficial relationship".

According to the letter, the Russian and Latvian delegations are working to achieve progress in the elaboration of a treaty on Russian troops withdrawal, agreements on social protection of Russian servicemen, military pensioners and members of their families, as well as on the Russian radar station in Skrunda.

The signing of these documents would boost settlement of other complicated issues of bilateral relations, stressed the president's letter.

Commentary on DPRK Nuclear Issue, Third Round Talks

SK1802123994 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1200 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Commentary by Korolev: "The Prospect of International Inspections on DPRK Nuclear Facilities" from the "Today's World" program]

[Text] The final date—21 February—when the DPRK has to give a clear answer on allowing an international inspection team to enter its nuclear facilities is approaching.

The problem lies in Washington's strict demand and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] asking Pyongyang to open the two facilities suspected of secretly developing nuclear weapons.

The future of the third round of U.S.-DPRK talks depends on the DPRK leaders' attitude toward this problem. Issues related to normalizing the two countries relations should be discussed in the talks.

Considering all the facts, it is of most concern that Pyongyang positively resolve the issue for economic reasons. Judging from the result of the past two rounds of talks, the DPRK seems to be well prepared for IAEA inspections of all nuclear facilities.

In the talks with the IAEA held in Vienna concerning the dispute of the details of inspections, it was agreed that two important facilities in the DPRK territory would not be taken into account [kaman haji anta].

According to data in possession [kajigo innun charyo], weapon [word indistinct] needed for nuclear warheads could be produced at these facilities. It is worrisome [pulan hada] how Pyongyang will answer Washington and the IAEA.

It is clear that the situation in the region would be aggravated if DPRK does not change its attitude on the nuclear issue. This is because Washington, Tokyo, and some other countries insist that a series of sanctions be imposed on the DPRK. They could also bomb [pokkyok halsudo itta] the nuclear facilities in the DPRK.

On the other hand, other countries oppose such hard-line measures. Russia insists on the early resolution of the nuclear weapons issue on the Korean peninsula, constructive dialogue between parties concerned, and effective cooperation between the DPRK and the IAEA.

Japanese Article on Invasion 'Scenarios' Rejected

LD2102163694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1614 GMT 21 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Anatoliy Krasnov and Dmitriy Chubarov]

[Text] Moscow February 21 TASS—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov expressed surprise at Saturday's publication by the Japanese newspaper MAINICHI SHIMBUN claiming that Japan and the United States have been trying out secret scenarios of invasion of Russia's maritime territory during their joint war games since 1985.

"It is hard to say anything about the trustworthiness of the Japanese publication," Panov told ITAR-TASS on Monday. He believes the situation could be cleared out by Japanese Foreign Ministry experts who are participating in the Russian-Japanese talks at the level of deputy foreign ministers in Moscow.

"In any event, the report confirms the correctness of the Russian position that the time has long been ripe for the Russian and the Japanese military to meet, exchange information and discuss the existing problems," Panov said.

Japanese Ambassador to Russia Kozo Watanabe who is also attending the talks said that he had not read the article carried by MAINICHI SHIMBUN and thus cannot comment on it. As for Japanese-American joint military manoeuvres, they are of a purely defensive nature and do not go beyond the concept of defence sufficiency, he said.

Talks Begin With Japanese Delegation in Moscow

LD2102190494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1732 GMT 21 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Anatoliy Krasnov]

[Text] Moscow February 21 TASS—"The Japanese are ready for a dialogue on international and regional issues, including in the military sphere, and want the talks to be

held at a higher level," a Russian top diplomat said after the first day of Russian-Japanese consultations in Moscow on Monday.

The talks focused on the situation in the world, Russia's participation in the upcoming G-7 summit meeting in Naples and current processes in the Asian-Pacific region. "So far everything goes pretty smoothly," Nikolay Solovyov added.

The Russian delegation to the talks is led by Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov, his Japanese counterpart Hiroshi Fukuda heads the Japanese delegation.

Fukuda said Tokyo is ready to continue support for Russia's economic reform and called for expanding trade and cooperation in the sphere of investments between the two countries, ITAR-TASS has learnt from diplomatic sources.

The sides also agreed to seek to boost humanitarian exchanges, considering them as an integral part of Russian-Japanese relations.

Prospects for Treaty Discussed

LD2202110694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1017 GMT 22 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Anatoliy Krasnov and Dmitriy Chubarov]

[Text] Moscow February 22 TASS—A mixed Russo-Japanese group met today to discuss prospects for signing a peace treaty between the two countries.

"We are satisfied with the dialogue," the leader of the Russian delegation to the talks, Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov told the press on Tuesday morning the consultations have confirmed Japan's support for Russian reforms. The process is already underway of turning the Group of Seven into a group of eight by admitting Russia to the club of the world's strongest powers. Japan has also showed a full understanding of the need to help the United Nations in solving international problems, Panov said.

As concerns the peace treaty between Russia and Japan, the Russian deputy minister said it was necessary to "set the scene" for a favourable dialogue on this subject. To facilitate the creation of a favourable atmosphere, the two delegations decided not to emphasize the territorial issue at their Tuesday meeting.

Panov said a decision is due to be reached on Tuesday on the date of the Japanese Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata's visit to Moscow.

Navy Sees No Threat from U.S.-Japanese Exercises

LD2102140794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1348 GMT 21 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow February 21 TASS—Scenarios of an armed attack on the Russian Far East which were simulated at joint U.S.-Japanese command and staff exercises, do not threaten the security and national interests of the Russian Federation, although they are a relapse of the Cold War, said on Monday representatives of the Russian chief naval staff.

They commented on an article in Sunday's Japanese newspaper MAINICHI that the United States and Japan conducted exercises codenamed C-1, C-2 and C-3, during which representatives of the Pentagon and the Japanese Defence Agency annually drafted plans for invading the Russian Maritime Territory, the South Kurils and Sakhalin.

In the opinion of Russian experts, the article does not reflect present-day realities. The world has changed, as has the nature of relations between countries. For instance, Russia and the United States will stage a joint exercise with beaching a landing party.

Russian-Japanese contacts have also become more active. They became more open and trustworthy.

Russia has adequate forces to protect its Far East both from land and sea, representatives of the Russian chief naval staff claimed.

Naval Commander Gromov Outlines Visit to India

LD1902150794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0700 GMT 19 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Kuznetsov]

[Text] Delhi, 19 Feb—Russia has an interest in maintaining stability in the Indian Ocean area to prevent regional conflicts here, Admiral Feliks Gromov, commander in chief of the Russian Navy said today at the end of his visit to India, in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. He held talks in Delhi with the Indian Republic's Naval Commander Admiral V.S. Shekhawat, was received by Defense Minister M. Mallikarjun, visited naval bases in Vishakhapatnam and Bombay, and also visited a warship.

It is no secret that in the past two years the level of military-technical cooperation between Russia and India has seen a decline and that the rupture of economic links between the countries of the CIS and the transfer to a new system of interstate calculations account for much of this, Gromov said. Therefore, the talks and meetings that have been held here have centered on problems connected to the resumption of bilateral ties on the basis of agreements arrived at during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to India in January 1993. These documents are now being qualitatively implemented where they relate to military-technical cooperation, in particular in weaponry matters and orders for spare parts, mechanisms, and materials. Furthermore, there are opportunities for organizing the exchange of experience in the tactics of the art of war and in personnel training.

The Russian military leader expressed hope that the creation in Moscow of Rosvooruzheniye with the aim of

settling all matters from the sale of arms through to their technical servicing and use in one package would provide for the smooth functioning of deliveries. We have taken it upon ourselves to work more closely with this new structure in order to meet our obligations to India, he said.

The commander in chief praised the level of maintenance at Indian bases, ships, and training equipment and the training of servicemen. All categories without exception—from admiral to sailor—display a conscientious attitude to the fulfillment of their duties. There are elements that we could adopt during the transition to the construction of Russia's Armed Forces on a new, professional basis.

The entry into Bombay of a detachment of the Russian Pacific Fleet consisting of the large Admiral Vinogradov antisubmarine vessel, the large Admiral Vilkov landing vessel and the Viktor Kolechitskiy tanker was timed to coincide with Gromov's visit. By agreement with the command of India's Navy, the first Russian-Indian exercises since the dissolution of the USSR were held in the Arabian Sea, during the course of which, according to the admiral, individual elements of military activity were tested: The establishment of communications, joint maneuvers, work with aerial and underwater targets, and the use of helicopters. A decision was made to conduct similar maneuvers in the future.

Iraqi Foreign Ministry Official Arrives for Talks

JN2102133894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1237 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow, 21 Feb (INA)—Riyad al-Qaysi, [Iraqi] Foreign Ministry under secretary, and his delegation arrived in Moscow last night on an official visit to Russia at the start of a tour to some UN Security Council member states.

The under secretary told INA correspondent in Moscow that the visit aims at discussing the latest developments in relations between Iraq and the UN Security Council and the Council's obligations toward Iraq, including the lifting of the embargo on oil exports in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Security Council Resolution 687. Iraq, he said, had fulfilled all of its obligations in accordance with the said resolutions in its dealing with the UN Special Commission. He also said the visit aims at enhancing cooperation with the Russian Federation as regards moves in the UN Security Council in this field.

The Iraqi delegation was received by Viktor Basafliok [name as received], head of the Foreign Ministry's Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration, and some Foreign Ministry officials.

'Cordial' Talks Held

JN2202103794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow, 22 Feb (INA)—An Iraqi delegation led by Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Riyad al-Qaysi held two rounds of talks last night with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Kolokolov at the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Al-Qaysi told an INA correspondent in Moscow that he briefed the Russian side on Iraq's talks with the Special Commission, the UN Security Council members, and the International Atomic Energy Agency, and on Iraq's implementation of its commitments as stipulated by the UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 715 on future monitoring.

He indicated that the two sides also discussed the subject of developing bilateral relations, particularly in the political and economic fields. They agreed to continue dialogue and consultation, in addition to discussing methods of bilateral cooperation within the framework of the Russian movement in the UN Security Council.

Al-Qaysi stressed that the atmosphere of the talks was extremely cordial.

Turkey's Demirel on Democracy, Foreign Ties

PM2202140994 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22 Feb 94 p 7

[Interview with Suleyman Demirel, president of Turkey, by Dmitriy Kulik, date not given: "Suleyman Demirel: 'I Have Elevated Democracy to the Level of Poetry'"—first three paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] Ankara—Suleyman Demirel is well known throughout the world today. He has been elected prime minister seven times, twice he has been ousted by the military, but history restores everything to its rightful place and last year he became president of our neighbor, Turkey.

His path to the top was as long and arduous as Turkey's path to democracy and economic prosperity. The irony is that it is his name specifically which for millions of Turks is synonymous with democracy (although Demirel translated means "iron hand").

His residence today is the sumptuous "Pink House" (that is the nickname given to the president's palace because of the gaudy color of the stone with which it is finished). It is difficult to gain access to this building even for local journalists—he has no time for interviews. However he made an exception for us—Demirel has always paid close attention to Russia and, as it turned out, he knows our newspaper well.

[Kulik] The leaders of many former republics of the USSR regard Turkey not only as an "older brother" who will help them in difficult times but also as a "father," in the belief that he will not only bring up his poor children but will also give them a start in "adult life." Do people in those countries not overexaggerate the role of Turkey, which has a host of economic problems of its own, a complex political situation, and vast debts?

[Demirel] We consider it our political and moral duty to help the newly independent Turkic republics to strengthen their statehood, overcome their economic problems, and enter the market.

Our relations are based on equality of rights. That is why there is no question of an "older" or "younger brother."

Turkey has signed more than 200 agreements with those countries in the spheres of the economy, culture, education, communications, transport, technical assistance, and banking. Ankara has granted credits totaling $935 million. In all, taken together with humanitarian and technical assistance, these countries have received $1,200 million.

Last year and already this year around 10,000 students from the Central Asian republics and Azerbaijan have come to Turkey to study thanks to an "educational link program" that has been devised.

We are also cooperating in air transport. Flights, including charter flights, have begun between Baku, Tashkent, Bishkek, Almaty, Ashgabat, and Istanbul. We have given those countries technical help to improve radio and satellite communications. They will now be able to link up with the rest of the world via Turkey.

[Kulik] The creation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation [BSEC] organization was received with great enthusiasm, although with the passage of time interest in this organization has gradually begun to wane. Does this mean that the BSEC has not lived up to the hopes of politicians and businessmen? What specifically is Turkey doing to develop regional cooperation?

[Demirel] I do not share the view that interest in the BSEC has waned. It is working fully—which is confirmed by the number of joint decisions and technical meetings.

Moreover, the interest of third parties can be confirmed by the increase in the number of requests for "observer status" from various states or nongovernmental organizations. As you already know, I am sure, Poland, Tunisia, Israel, Slovakia, and Egypt have already been given that status within the BSEC. The same status has been given to the organization's council created by commercial associations from the member countries. The International Black Sea Club has been created. The progress achieved with the framework of the BSEC may be considered outstanding. Its structural organization has been completed and the transition to the level of implementing specific projects has been made. Cooperation in the telecommunications sphere is developing particulary actively.

[Kulik] Islamic fundamentalism is worrying the whole world today. Does that problem exist in Turkey? How do you regard it?

[Demirel] To be frank, it is hard to understand how world public opinion can be worried about the activation of Islamic fundamentalism. After all, in former Yugoslavia and especially on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina it is the Muslims who have been subjected to attack. It is they essentially who are suffering genocide. More than 1 million people in Azerbaijan have become refugees in their own country. And it is against that background that the whole world is for some reason talking about Islamic fundamentalism.

On the contrary, it is the Muslims who are presently in a defensive position. That must be clearly seen.

Islamic fundamentalism in the eighties was a kind of reaction by the populations of various Muslim countries to the lack of democracy and to pressure from the authoriies. But if we look at things from today's perspective, we will see that even the most radical Islamic tendencies of that period which entered the leadership of certain countries have substantially moderated their position.

In the nineties the situation began to develop differently. A new world order is being formed in the process of which a host of problems which have accumulated since World War I have surfaced. In such an uncertain atmosphere, religiosity, micronationalism, a hostile attitude to foreigners, and other harmful tendencies have begun to prevail in various regions. It is because the world community did not prevent them in time that we now have the present situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

There is no need to speak of fundamentalism in Turkey: We do not have such a problem. Yes, of course, there are individual fundamentalists or fairly small and uninfluential groups of that kind. But you can encounter that anywhere in the world. But the overwhelming majority of Turks are implacable toward fundamentalism. The fact is that Turkey has quite considerable experience in the sphere of democracy and law—we have accepted them as a way of life.... Go out into the streets and talk with Turks there and you will see that for yourself.

[Kulik] Last year Turkish officials were heard to say a number of times that the 'Kurdish Workers' Party [PKK] would be finished off before 1994." Indeed, Ankara did conduct a number of successful operations against Kurdish militants both in Turkey itself and in Europe. However, the strength of the PKK has not diminished, the struggle goes on, and people continue to die. Do you still believe that this organization must be fought by strong-arm methods alone? What is the way out of the present situation?

[Demirel] I do not believe that anyone said: "The PKK will be finished off...." I am sure that they were talking about an effective and successful campaign against that terrorist organization and the weakening of it, which has been achieved.

Turkey is constantly trying to resolve this problem on the basis of the norms of a democratic, rule-of-law state. We are opposed to the destruction of the country and our villages, attacks on border posts and police stations, and the murder of people, indiscriminate murder furthermore—of children, women, men, civilians or military, young or old. And Turkey's measures in response to all this are constitutional: We are protecing our democratic regime by the methods of that democratic regime. I do not think that there are any other means of combatting terrorism.

It would be a mistake to think that it is only people of Kurdish origin who are members of the terrorist PKK. In Turkey all people are "first class" citizens. Incidentally, there are more Kurds in western Turkey than in the southeast (that is where the war against the PKK is

particularly fierce—author's note). They live as they please and where they please, they work where they want to work. And our task is to protect them from the PKK, a terrorist organzation which engages in racketeering, drug smuggling, and other illegal activity.

[Kulik] The Cold War has ended, but Turkey retains its former military concept and there are NATO basis still on its territory. Do you think that it is still necessary to preserve this situation?

[Demirel] I do not believe that there is any reason to fear this in Moscow. There is an agreement on friendship and cooperation between Russia and Turkey which I myself signed in 1992.

[Kulik] Since you have raised the subject, incidentally, do you not rule out cooperation in the military sphere?

[Demirel] Turkey is a part of NATO. If that organization's policy and doctrine allow such cooperation then of course it is possible. But we are already collaborating in the military sphere by buying your military hardware. There are consultations between our generals, the Russian defense minister has visited Turkey....

Russia is no longer our enemy. We have formed good relations.

[Kulik] Sometimes the Turkish reforms are called almost an "economic miracle." There is also an opinion that it was only the army, when it held power in Turkey, which ensured stability and prepared the ground for successful political and economic transformations. As a president and a politican who has suffered from the army a number of times, what do you think about that?

[Demirel] The involvement of the military in politics is the oldest thing in the world. But sooner or later people always come to the conclusion that power must be civilian. Where the army is under the leadership of civilians, there you get democracy. Where the military run everything, there you get fascism.

The army cannot prepare the country for democracy. The people must prepare themselves for democracy which cannot develop "in silence." That is why I shall never agree with the leading role of the army in reforms.

[Kulik] How do you view the results of the parliamentary elections in Russia? Will they influence Russian-Turkish relations?

[Demirel] The elections in Russia are, of course, entirely Russia's domestic affair. They are a reflection of the Russian people's political will. These were the first free elections in Russia and approved the new post-communist constitution. I am confident that the process of reforms, which are so tumultuous in your country, will continue.

As for our bilateral relations, I would like to note that we perceive Mr. Zhirinovskiy's statements with apprehension. However, we do not believe that the many centuries old Russian-Turkish relations can be swayed by such utterances.

[Kulik] You are a well-known politician of world stature. Much is said and written about you. But how would Suleyman Demirel describe himself—as a man and a citizen?

[Demirel] I have been serving my state and my people for 40 years now, first as a technocrat, then as a politician. I first became involved in political activity to establish the supremacy of the people's will because my ideal was that of a happy, prosperous, and democratic Turkey built "from scratch." I am constantly working to achieve that ideal today.

I have elevated democracy to the level of my own poetry and I have always fought for it even at the most difficult times. I derive my determination here from the determination of the Turkish people.

If you look at the past 30 years of the Turkish Republic, you will see that the people have always been with me. I believe that I worked quite hard to ensable us to achieve the level of democracy and economic strength that we have today.

Of course, only the people can assess politicans and their actions. That is why I feel pride in and admiration for our people who have always rendered me my due.

Moscow 'Not Quite Satisfied' With Turks' Rules on Straits

LD2202185494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1505 GMT 22 Feb 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] "Russia is not quite satisfied" with the rules for the passage of ships through the Black Sea straits, Bosporus and Dardanelles, established by Turkey early this year. A Russian delegation led by the First Deputy Director of the Foreign Ministry's legal department, Yakov Ostrovskiy, left for Ankara on Monday to discuss this problem. Interfax learned this from a high-ranking Russian diplomat in charge of relations with Turkey.

The passage of ships through the Black Sea straits is regulated by the Montreux Convention signed in 1938 by the USSR, Turkey and some other countries, he explained. "Provisions of that convention satisfy Russia. As for Ankara, while proclaiming its adherence to the convention verbally, in fact it interprets the document rather freely," the diplomat said.

The new Turkish rules, he explained, stipulate that the ships passing through the straits must necessarily be accompanied by pilots (Interfax's note: under the convention pilots can be used only with the captains' consent).

Moreover, Interfax's interviewee noted, Turkey's provision that large ships must pass through Bosporus strictly in their turn "is not quite in line" with the convention. "Under the new Turkish rules, when a large ship enters the strait, the remaining ones must wait. This creates numerous inconveniences," the Russian diplomat said.

Turkey established "a very complicated procedure" for the passage of nuclear-armed ships, he pointed out. Preliminary notifications and the observance of some other formalities are required for the passage of such ships. "This is understandable. Istanbul is a city populated by 12 million people, and any accident may result in great casualties. Nevertheless we believe, and our view is shared by many Turks, that such issues should be resolved in the framework of an international conference. Such a conference may be convened in the near future," the diplomat concluded.

Political Issues

Zhirinovskiy Calls For Party Unity

LD2202195694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1432 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy on Tuesday [22 February] called on LDP deputies to adhere to party unity.

Last week, three party officials—Viktor Kobelyev, Vyacheslav Marychyev and Alexander Pronin—spoke of their disagreement with actions and speeches by Party Chairman Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and Deputy Speaker of the State Duma Aleksandr Vengerovskiy.

Zhirinovskiy said that "no one stands to benefit from any disarray within party ranks." As an example, he pointed to the Russia's Choice Party which was defeated in the December election because of disunity despite an enormous financial backing and President Yeltsin's rule of the country.

"We have unity, a policy and leader and the party's rating is going up at a breakneck speed," he said.

The LDP leader warned that from now on, any conflicts must be resolved within the faction and should never be taken up with parliament. "What our opponents want is party infighting and we must not give them a chance," he said.

Zhirinovskiy called to suppress any betrayal from within. "If you dislike it, put your party card and deputy mandate on the table and start from scratch in some other party," he told the LDP deputies.

Zhirinovskiy also said that to avert a party split, the party chairman must be granted congressional powers in between party congresses offering for appropriate amendments to be made in party rules during the LDP's next forum in April. In his view, the party leader must be made responsible for all issues—personnel, financial and others—in between party congresses. The LDP's supreme council should play a consultative role while the party chairman "like Russia in the U.N. Security Council" must be allowed to veto down any council resolutions, Zhirinovskiy said. This brought no comment from council members.

Zhirinovskiy said that from now on, his first deputy and editor-in-chief of the party sponsored "Liberal" newspaper Stanislav Zhebrovskiy would handle contacts with the LDP's regional branches (earlier, Viktor Kobelyev's area of responsibility). One other council member Aleksandr Vengerovskiy is to be responsible for day-to-day management of the party faction in parliament.

The two disgraced party members, Viktor Kobelyev and Aleksandr Pronin, were conspicuously absent at the meeting while the third one, Vyacheslav Marychyev, left it five minutes after journalists. Eyewitnesses say there was "a tough male talk" in those five minutes with Marychyev demanding an apology from Vengerovskiy for having called him "a black sheep" in a recent TV interview. Marychyev told reporters that he would quit the party unless Vengerovskiy apologized.

Baburin Satisfied With National Union Congress

PM2302102994 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 22 Feb 94 p 2

[Nadezhda Garifullina report: "The Russian Path—The Third Russian National Union Congress Is Over"]

[Text] The Third Russian National Union [RNU] Congress took place over two days in Moscow, gathering together around 150 delegates from more than 50 regions of the Russian Federation.

The main event of the first day was information from State Duma and Federation Council deputies A. Lukyanov, V. Isakov, S. Baburin, Ye. Pavlov, V. Tikhonov, S. Glotiv, and others on the work of the new parliament, and their answers to numerous questions from the delegates. On the second day there was a general political discussion on two reports: "On Making Amendments and Additions to the Russian National Union Rules," which was delivered by RNU Coordinating Council Chairman S. Baburin, and "On the Political and Socioeconomic Situation in the Country and the Tasks of the Russian National Union," presented by N. Pavlov.

On proclaiming the creation of the RNU social movement in October 1991, its initiators stressed the following in the program document: The new movement "must be national in order to embrace Russians and Bashkirs, Yakuts and Ukrainians, Germans and Poles, the peoples of the Volga Region and the North Caucasus. We consider the sole demand upon participants in the movement to be a feeling of love for our common motherland, Russia." Now, however, Nikolay Pavlov believes that the RNU must be a movement of Russian citizens, the Russian people, and that it must defend the interests of the Russian nation. Many who spoke did not agree with him, in the light of which N. Pavlov offered his resignation. However, the congress did not accept it.

A far-reaching discussion was also conducted on the draft program statement "The Russian Path," in which the basic aims in the sphere of politics, economics, culture, and the social sphere are defined, and it was again stressed that the RNU is not purely a Russian movement but is open to representatives of any nation and nationality living on Russian territory.

"I am satisfied with the Congress, although it did not pass off completely smoothly," Sergey Baburin said when I requested a comment on the results of the forum. "We adopted a decision to reform the sociopolitical movement into a political party—that is, to effect a reorganization, and to strengthen the party principles of the RNU. Together with this, I consider it to be of major importance that we should preserve the opportunity for RNU members to participate in other political parties and social organizations whose programs do not contradict our political views. Obviously, the criticism directed at our friends

and allies was just—I am thinking of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, the Agrarian Party, and others. After all, if all they receive is praise, if we do not criticize, how can they find their bearings?

"I was also pleased that the congress participants approached the question of our political line and priorities in the political program very seriously. We adopted the program statement 'The Russian Path' as a basis for further work and we hope that regional organizations will work earnestly on the provisions of the program, which we hope to adopt in November 1994. Prior to the registration of our amended rules by the Ministry of Justice, we will be guided by the existing rules, but we will try to keep the transition period—from movement to party—down to a minimum. As for Nikolay Pavlov's resignation, the congress rejected it unanimously, and we declared that Pavlov is destined to gain victory together with and as part of the RNU."

Ella Pamfilova New Co-Chairman of Democratic Russia

LD2002175394 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 20 Feb 94

[Text] A plenum of the Council of representatives of the Democratic Russia movement today elected the State Duma deputy Ella Pamfilova as the movement's co-chairman.

Former KGB Staffer Fails To Incriminate Baburin

PM2202133594 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 19 Feb 94 p 2

[ROS-INFORMBYURO report: "Stop Press..."]

[Text] Former general of Soviet political intelligence Oleg Kalugin, who is on trial for spreading false reports about the alleged existence of "collusion" between the KGB and the well-known public and state figure Sergey Baburin, has been unable to present any documentary evidence of his public "exposures."

For six months he failed to appear at Kuntsevskiy Rayon Court in the city of Moscow, where legal action to defend the honor and dignity of the State Duma deputy and leader of the Russian All-National Union is in progress against O. Kalugin and the newspaper IZVESTIYA. On Tuesday 15 February the defendant appeared before the court. During the hearing he basically confirmed that his action was prompted by political motives: He had to discredit Baburin.

Addressing the court, Sergey Baburin reminded those present that "Kalugin's slanderous statements were reproduced by dozens and dozens of mass media sources, to be relished and publicly commented on by his political opponents." But he has not yet received any apology for the offending article.

Scientist Mirzoyanov Released From Jail

LD2202184794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1656 GMT 22 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Oleinik]

[Text] Moscow February 22 TASS—Scientist Vil Mirzayanov, who is accused of dislosing a state secret about chemical weapons production in Russia, is to be released from jail on order of Prosecutor General Alexey Kazannik. However, he would be obliged to stay in Moscow, the prosecutor's office said on Tuesday.

Economic Issues

Radical Measures Urged To Pay TV Debts

PM2202160394 Moscow TRUD in Russian 18 Feb 94 p 2

[Anri Vartanov report: "Television Viewers Deprived of Almost All Their Television Programs Taken In by Three Myths"]

[Text] Last week millions of television viewers got a shock. Communications personnel, who are owed 80 billion rubles [R] by television for last year, cut off transmission in many regions of the country. For a whole day fans of Santa Barbara [soap opera] scoured the news agency reports with bated breath for news of the development of the conflict.

In the evening many breathed a sigh of relief: It was reported that Premier Chernomyrdin had ordered that television's debts to the Ministry of Communications be paid. True, this is to be in stages. It is not difficult to guess that with each stage, given today's inflation, the sum will "diminish," which, understandably, will not induce enthusiasm among the communications workers.

Nor should it be forgotten that this year's debts will quickly augment last year's. At a press conference on Monday the leaders of the television companies reported that for 1994 they had been allocated only 18 percent of the sum required. It is not difficult to guess that six weeks from now, at the end of the first quarter, the communications personnel will again have grounds for raising the question of switching off our television sets.

It is perfectly clear therefore that the problem needs a fundamental solution. Today it would seem the heavyweights of this world have grasped this simple truth. The premier spoke of the need to abandon a number of state television channels on the very evening of the day when the crisis in relations between television and the Ministry of Communications was resolved. But quite a few difficulties are concealed behind the outward simplicity.

Sometimes naive people regard denationalization as a magic wand which will immediately enable all questions to be removed. In this latest conflict, for example, the myth has arisen thanks to someone that the communications workers are owed money only by state companies, the private ones having emerged with spotless year-end results. Indeed they don't have any debts. But why? The point is

that TV-6 enjoys a special satellite communications link, while NTV only started operating quite recently and so has not had time to get into debt.

The Ministry of Communications' complaints about poverty, which is prompting the strikes, is yet another myth. It is, of course, a thankless task to count the money in someone else's pocket, but, according to certain sources, the monopolists' earnings in this sphere are considerably above the average for other sectors of the economy.

Finally, there is a third myth, to wit, the opinion that television and "Ostankino," in particular, is, through advertising, raking in millions in foreign currency and billions in rubles, and that it shares it with no one. Indeed, a lot has been written recently about abuses perpetrated by certain smart operators in television. However, something else must also be said: "Ostankino" not only pays taxes to the state but also "releases" quite a considerable amount of the large sum of money it has to the Television Center, which owns all the television company's property and equipment .

In the opinion of A. Pimanov, deputy director of "Ostankino's" "Publitsist" Studio, neither share-flotation nor even the introduction of subscription payments for the use of televison receivers is capable of rescuing Europe's largest television company from financial failure. A whole set of different measures is required here. It is essential to have a separate bank and to put to work the money obtained from the state. The progress of every ruble should be tracked and the maximum return on it secured. Channels through which money is lost to television production must be plugged.

But that is not enough, according to Pimanov. It is time to stop shifting money from one pocket to another with considerable losses en route. The practice which formerly prevailed at "Ostankino" and which is the rule throughout the world should be restored. After all nowhere, and that includes in the second largest Russian television company, is the creative side separated from the technical. The long-drawn-out question of the autonomousness of the Television Center, which has been artificially isolated from the single television organism, must finally be resolved. Incidentally, the Television Center recently, without any warning whatsoever, announced a retroactive increase, effective as of last December, in all prices for the services offered to "Ostankino." And these were up to fourfold increases!

It is clear here that the television company will never be able to extricate itself from the trammels of unpaid debts. It will not be saved by crumbs from the government budget table, shareholders' investments, or even a subscription payment by millions of ordinary viewers.

Finance Minister Comments on 1994 Draft Budget

LD2202165494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] As we have already reported, the Russian Finance Ministry has drawn up a draft budget for 1994. The ministry believes its deficit should be 55 trillion rubles. The expenditure part comes to 178 trillion. We asked Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin what this money is going to be spent on. This is what he told us in a telephone interview.

[Begin Dubinin recording] The expenditure part of the budget reflects those real outlays which have been planned by the government, set by the laws and resolutions, so to speak, and which we, the Finance Ministry, would not dare propose rescinding. We are proposing simply rescinding a whole series of laws, a whole series of resolutions, which we are simply unable to underpin financially with revenue, but there are things which inevitably have to be financed.

Quite a large amount in our budget is spent, of course, on social and cultural measures. This comes to tens of trillions of rubles, and all this is a continuation of our policy aimed at supporting, on the one hand, the most needy areas, and also extending selective support to production sectors with capital investments, and in some areas, as in agriculture and the coal industry, with subsidies, although subsidies, of course, are not the best way of spending money.

Russia's budget, like that of any other state, is burdened with the same historical state prerogatives, that is, the country's defense, international activity, the social sphere, and certain economic matters.

There is hardly any point in telling you about the whole structure of the budget, especially as this is a draft, and there will clearly be certain alterations to it after the government has examined it, it has its own drafts, and it will be submitted to the State Duma. We tried at least to prevent the situation of industries and the social sphere from getting any worse, although it is quite difficult to do that when output is being cut generally, and the country is in a state of crisis. It is quite difficult to ensure a rise in the finance of one area or another, it is scarcely possible.

Otherwise the whole structure of the budget has to be radically altered, say, totally stop financing one area and switch to another. Since no-one has taken such decisions, the structure of the 1994 budget will to a large extent look like the structure of the 1993 one. [end recording]

Privatization of Major Enterprises Near Completion

PM2302102194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22 Feb 94 p 3

[Sergey Razin report: "Chubays Parts Easily With His Voucher"]

[Text] "But the caravan keeps on rolling." This was Anatoliy Chubays' comment at a Goskomimushchestvo [State Committee for the Management of State Property] collegium session on Moscow's intention to do away with voucher privatization. The last of the reformers promised to protect Muscovites from the capital's government. In his opinion, Goskomimushchestvo has enough levers of power to exhibit Moscow's largest and most attractive

enterprises at the forthcoming check auctions. Otherwise the authorities will have to explain themselves to the president.

The collegium spent the entire session in optimistic mood, anticipating a quick finish to voucher denationalization of the state economy. Goskomimushchestvo Deputy Chairman Dmitriy Vasilyev reported that 900 enterprises a month are being sold off for vouchers at auction. Which means that before 1 July another 4,500 firms will go under the hammer and we will be able to kiss good-bye to the state sector altogether.

Perhaps the most absorbing question for everyone at the collegium was this: Where have all the vouchers gotten to? A group of directors from Tula is thoroughly exasperated by the local citizens who have absolutely no desire to surrender their checks to state enterprises.

Such is life! It seems the vouchers have sailed away to other, more distant climes. One of the bosses of "Alfa-Kapital" frankly confessed in his speech to the collegium that there are almost 1 million vouchers lying in his storage vaults! Other speakers calculated that the largest commercial structures have relieved people of more than 20 million vouchers alone, and approximately 900 check and investment funds of various kinds popped up in 1993.

However, "Alfa-Kapital" may appositely be compared to a big and hypertrophied version of Plyushkin [miser in Gogol's "Dead Souls"], hiding its vouchers in barns and lumber rooms. Businessmen are currently backing these structures in order to tap into the tastiest industrial morsels that will soon be up for grabs.

Herein, basically, lies all the tension of the present moment: Who will get their hands on the state property? The refashioning of the state sector is almost over: Sector chiefs and Moscow mandarins are about to be deprived of their strongest authority—the right to manage real estate. This authority is about to be transferred to independent commercial capital.

Military Issues

Yeltsin Convinced of Army Loyalty to Constitution

LD2202200494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1915 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow February 23 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin said on Wednesday he is convinced that the national armed forces will remain loyal to the constitution and pledged to ensure social benefits for the military.

"I am convinced that the personnel of the Russian Armed Forces will remain loyal to the constitution, the military oath and duty, cherish the military rank and army comradeship", Yeltsin said in a message of greetings to the armed forces and war veterans on the occasion of the day of motherland defenders marked on February 23.

"The armed forces are a core of the Russian statehood, guarantor of peace, stability and democratic gains. They should be powerful, mobile and equipped with the most efficient armaments. The state will do everything to increase the prestige of military profession and make servicemen and members of their families feel better protected in the social sphere," the president added.

"The day of motherland defenders is a special holiday. It is marked by the entire people, who pay tribute and show respect and gratitude to Russian servicemen.

"Russian servicemen were the first to counteract forces, which tried to destroy our state with fire and sword and enslave our people. They saved Russia in the most difficult, mortally dangerous moments of war.

"You, the servicemen of the armed forces, are worthy heirs and successors of military traditions. At a time of trial you show restraint and firmness and honestly fulfill the professional and civic duty.

"I wish you, dear servicemen, your dear and near, veterans and civilian personnel of the armed forces, health, happiness and prosperity. Glory, honor and gratitude to you for your hard work and success to you in life and military service!" says the message.

Military Fears Loss of Autonomy in NATO Link

PM2202161394 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22 Feb 94 p 2

[Igor Chernyak report: "Will Russian Soldiers Wash Their Boots in the North Atlantic?"]

[Text] The upper echelons of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry and Foreign Intelligence Service are treating the idea of Russia's entry into NATO under the "Partnership for Peace" program extremely cautiously. In brief, military and intelligence personnel mainly fear that Russia could be deprived of the opportunity autonomously to choose a model for future military building and development and for reforming the Army and Navy: The Russian Armed Forces could cease to be an independent military organization, and in the light of that the Russian Federation could switch from being an autonomous factor for security and stability in the world to being an element subordinate to another mechanism.

In the words of one participant in the recent Russian-American seminar devoted to these problems in the Russian Federation Center for National Security Problems, the U.S. representatives often simply failed to dispel the Russians' fears. They were forestalled by a representative of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry, who defended the partners' interests with even greater fervor than they themselves. The Foreign Ministry leadership's interest in joining the "Partnership" and NATO can be explained: As a result of gross foreign policy miscalculations in neighboring foreign states, powerful political and military clots have formed—Tajikistan, Moldova, Georgia-Abkhazia, and Armenia-Azerbaijan—which the Russian Federation cannot resolve alone. So a gamble is being placed on NATO peacekeeping forces. However, in the view of a number of military experts, these would be false gains.

Federal Assembly

Duma Votes For Amnesty for Coup Participants

LD2302115094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 23 Feb 94

[Report by Aleksandr Ruvinskiy]

[Text] I have just come into the studio to report important news to our listeners: The session of the State Duma has just passed a resolution. According to this, four documents are endorsed as a single package, including a resolution on an amnesty for those who took part in the events of August 1991, 1 May 1993, and September-October 1994.

Some deputies, in particular from the Agrarian faction, the Communist Party faction and the Liberal Democratic Party faction have described this as the biggest occasion for celebration in the history of the Russian state.

Other deputies, in particular those from the Russia's Choice faction, said that this was the start of civil war in Russia.

Further on Amnesty Provisions

MK2302085094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 23 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "New Triumph of a 'Package Method'"]

[Text] According to "Yabloko" deputy Vyacheslav Shostakovskiy, following a protracted discussion yesterday the State Duma Council decided to merge into one package two issues that have lately caused the deepest divisions between factions: on a wide-ranging amnesty and on setting up a commission to investigate the events of September-October 1993 in Moscow. Leaders of conservative factions, who have up to now demanded that the commission be vested with the broadest powers possible, agreed to persuade their deputies to refrain altogether from intervening in the investigation conducted by the prosecutor's office, and to act as if the vote on setting up a commission never took place. Their political rivals agreed in response to add a number of "political" provisions to the amnesty decree. The decision on the "purely criminal" amnesty, however, will still be made separately from decisions on the "political and economic" amnesty. Another participant in the meeting, however, told SEGODNYA that "A political amnesty does not mean at all that all those charged with organizing rebellions in 1991 and 1993 and the instigators of last May's disturbances will be pardoned at once."

Duma Seeks To Regularize Local Election Practice

PM2202164394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Feb 94 First Edition p 5

[Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Decree No. 54-1 GD "On the Legal Basis for Elections to Bodies of State Power in the Russian Federation Components and Local Self-Government Bodies and on Ensuring the Electoral Rights of Citizens," dated 11 February 1994 and signed by I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma, in Moscow]

[Text] In connection with the entry into force of the Russian Federation Constitution and the need to bring the legislative and other legal acts of the Russian Federation components into line with the provisions of the Russian Federation Constitution, and also in connection with current elections to the legislative (representative) bodies of Russian Federation components and to local self-government bodies in the course of which federal laws are being violated, the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma decrees the following:

1. The president of the Russian Federation, as guarantor of the Russian Federation Constitution and of human and civil rights and freedoms, is counseled:

to adopt measures ensuring the elimination of violations of the electoral rights of citizens and local self-government rights enshrined in the Russian Federation Constitution which have arisen in normative and other legal acts of the executive bodies of state power of Russian Federation components, up to and including the suspension of these legal acts;

to adopt measures to bring Russian Federation presidential edicts and the normative legal acts of Russian Federation components regulating questions of the organization of representative and executive bodies of state power in the Russian Federation components and the organization of local self-government into line with the Russian Federation Constitution;

as a priority to submit a draft federal law on guarantees of the electoral rights of citizens in the election of state power bodies in Russian Federation components and local self-government bodies.

2. State power bodies in the Russian Federation components, the Russian Federation prosecutor general, and the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission are instructed to adopt the necessary measures to bring the legal acts of Russian Federation components on the election of state power bodies in the Russian Federation components and local self-government bodies into line with the Russian Federation Constitution and Russian Federation legislation.

3. The State Duma Committee for the Affairs of the Federation and Regional Policy and the State Duma Committee on Questions of Local Self-Government are to:

prepare as a priority draft federal laws on the general principles of organization of the system of state power bodies in the Russian Federation components and local self-government;

prepare and submit for State Duma scrutiny no later than 5 March 1994 a report on progress in implementing the present decree;

prepare and submit for State Duma scrutiny draft aRussian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma appeal to the Russian Federation president, state power bodies in the Russian Federation components, the Russian Federation prosecutor general, and the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission on ensuring the electoral rights of citizens in elections to the legislative (representative) bodies of state power in the Russian Federation components and local self-government bodies.

[Signed] I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma

Regional Affairs

Text of Russian Federation-Tatarstan Treaty

PM2302111994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Feb 94 First Edition p 5

[Treaty of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan "On the Demarcation of Areas of Responsibility and the Mutual Delegation of Powers Between the Organs of State Power of the Russian Federation and the Organs of State Power of the Republic of Tatarstan"]

[Text] Plenipotentiary representatives of the organs of state power of the Russian Federation and the organs of state power of the Republic of Tatarstan:

guided by the Constitution of the Russian Federation and the Constitution of the Republic of Tatarstan;

proceeding from the peoples' universally recognized right to self-determination and from the principles of equal rights, voluntariness, and free expression of will;

guaranteeing the preservation of territorial integrity and of the unity of the economic area;

promoting the preservation and development of historical and national traditions, cultures, and languages;

concerned to ensure civil peace, interethnic accord, and the security of the peoples;

realizing the priority of basic human and civil rights and freedoms regardless of nationality, religion, place of residence, and other differences;

mindful that the Republic of Tatarstan, as a state, is united with the Russian Federation by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the Constitution of the Republic of Tatarstan, and by the treaty on the demarcation of areas of responsibility and the mutual delegation of powers between the organs of state power of the Russian Federation and the organs of state power of the Republic of Tatarstan and participates in international and foreign economic relations,

have agreed on the following:

Article I

The demarcation of areas of responsibility and the mutual delegation of powers between the organs of state power of the Russian Federation and the organs of state power of the Republic of Tatarstan are effected by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the Constitution of the Republic of Tatarstan, and this treaty.

Article II

The Republic of Tatarstan has its own Constitution and legislation.

The organs of state power of the Republic of Tatarstan exercise the powers of state power, including:

1) ensuring the protection of human and civil rights and freedoms;

2) forming the republic budget, setting and levying republic taxes;

3) resolving questions relating to attorneys and notaries;

4) carrying out the legal regulation of administrative, family, and housing relations and relations in the spheres of environmental protection and the use of nature;

5) pardoning persons convicted by judges of the Republic of Tatarstan;

6) resolving questions of the possession, use, and disposal of land, minerals, water, forest, and other natural resources, as well as state enterprises, organizations, and other movable state property and real estate, which are located on the territory of the Republic of Tatarstan and which are the exclusive property and possessions of the people of Tatarstan, with the exception of objects in federal ownership. The demarcation of state ownership is governed by a separate agreement;

7) establishing the system of the state organs of the Republic of Tatarstan and the procedure of their organization and activity;

8) resolving questions of republic citizenship;

9) establishing the procedure for the performance of alternative civilian service on the territory of the Republic of Tatarstan by citizens who, in accordance with federal law, have the right to commuted military service;

10) establishing and maintaining relations and concluding treaties and agreements with republics, krays, oblasts, the autonomous oblast, autonomous okrugs, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg of the Russian Federation which do not run counter to the Constitutions of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan, this treaty, or other agreements between the organs of state power of the Russian Federation and the organs of state power of the Republic of Tatarstan;

11) participating in international relations, establishing relations with foreign states, concluding with them agreements which do not run counter to the Constitution and the international obligations of the Russian Federation, the Constitution of the Republic of Tatarstan, or this treaty, and participating in the activities of corresponding international organizations;

12) creating the National Bank in accordance with a separate agreement;

13) independently carrying on foreign economic activity. The demarcation of powers in the sphere of foreign economic activity is effected in a separate agreement;

14) resolving questions of conversion at enterprises in the state ownership of the Republic of Tatarstan according to the procedure laid down in a separate agreement;

15) establishing state awards and honorary titles of the Republic of Tatarstan.

Article III

The organs of state power of the Russian Federation and the organs of state power of the Republic of Tatarstan jointly exercise the following powers:

1) ensuring human and civil rights and freedoms and the rights of national minorities;

2) protection of sovereignty and territorial integrity;

3) organization of the mobilization preparation of the national economy and leadership of the development and production of arms and military hardware on the territory of the Republic of Tatarstan; questions of sales of weapons, ammunition, military hardware, and other military property, as well as conversion of the defense industry. The forms and share of the sides' participation in realizing the corresponding powers are defined in separate agreements;

4) common and conflicting questions of citizenship;

5) coordination of international and foreign economic ties;

6) coordination of pricing policy;

7) formation of regional development funds;

8) implementation of monetary policy;

9) management of projects owned by the Russian Federation or the Republic of Tatarstan which, with due regard for interest, can be transferred to joint management by voluntary and mutual consent. The forms and procedure of the joint management of specific projects are defined in separate agreements;

10) coordination of activities relating to questions of geodesy, the meteorological service, and the calculation of time;

11) creation of common funds to finance joint programs and elimination of the aftermath of natural disasters and accidents on the basis of mutual agreements;

12) coordination of the management of things in common: the energy system, mainline, railroad, pipeline, air, and water transport, communications, and information systems;

13) ensuring the regime of unimpeded and duty-free movement of transport, freight, and output by air, sea, river, rail, and road, as well as by pipeline transport;

14) assessment, in accordance with international standards, of the state of the quality of the natural environment and implementation of measures to stabilize and restore it; ensuring ecological safety and coordination of actions in the sphere of the use of land, water, and other natural resources; prevention of ecological disasters; questions of specially protected natural territories;

15) implementation of a common policy in the social sphere; employment of the population, migration processes, and social protection, including social provision;

16) coordination of activity relating to questions of health care, protection of the family, motherhood, fatherhood, and childhood, education, science, culture, physical culture, and sport; training of national cadres for schools, educational institutions, cultural establishments, the mass media, and other establishments and organizations; provision of preschool establishments and educational institutions with literature in the mother tongue; coordination of scientific research in the spheres of the history and culture of the peoples and their languages;

17) cadres of judicial and law enforcement organs;

18) attorneys, arbitrators, and notaries;

19) coordination of the activities of law enforcement organs, cooperation between security organs, development and implementation of targeted programs to combat crime;

20) establishment of common principles of organizing the system of organs of state power and local self-management;

21) administrative, administrative-procedural, labor, family, housing, land, water, and forestry legislation and legislation on minerals and environmental protection;

22) questions of the joint use of land, minerals, and water and other natural resources;

23) other powers established by mutual agreement.

Article IV

In the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation and its organs are:

1) the adoption and alteration of the Russian Federation Constitution and of federal laws and the monitoring of their observance; the federative system and the territory of the Russian Federation;

2) the regulation and protection of human and civil rights and freedoms; citizenship in the Russian Federation; the regulation and protection of the rights of national minorities;

3) the establishment of the system of federal organs of legislative, executive, and judicial power and the procedure of their organization and activity; the formation of federal organs of state power;

4) federal state property and its management;

5) the establishment of the foundations of federal policy and federal programs in the sphere of the state, economic, ecological, social, cultural, and national development of the Russian Federation;

6) the establishment of the legal foundations of a single market; financial, currency, credit, and customs regulation, monetary emission, and the foundations of pricing policy; federal economic services, including federal banks;

7) the federal budget; federal taxes and dues; federal regional development funds;

8) federal energy systems, nuclear power, and fissile materials; federal transport, means of communication, information, and communications; activity in space;

9) the Russian Federation's foreign policy and international relations and the Russian Federation's international treaties; questions of war and peace;

10) the Russian Federation's foreign economic relations;

11) defense and security; defense production; determination of the procedure for selling and buying weapons, ammunition, military hardware, and other military property; production of toxic substances and narcotics and the procedure for their use;

12) the determination of the status and protection of the state border, the territorial sea, the airspace, the exclusive economic zone, and the continental shelf of the Russian Federation;

13) the judicial system; the prosecutor's office; criminal, criminal-procedural, and criminal-executive legislation; amnesty and pardon; civil, civil-procedural, and arbitration-procedural legislation;

14) federal conflict of laws;

15) the meteorological service, standards, measures, the metric system, and calculation of time; geodesy and cartography; names of geographic features; official statistical records and accountancy;

16) state awards and honorary titles of the Russian Federation;

17) federal state service.

Article V

Juridical documents issued by organs of power, establishments, and officials of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan within the scope of the powers of these organs, establishments and officials are valid.

Article VI

The organs of state power of the Russian Federation, as well as the organs of power of the Republic of Tatarstan, may not issue legal acts on questions not relating to their jurisdiction.

The organs of state power of the Republic of Tatarstan, as well as the federal organs of state power, have the right to appeal against laws of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan if they violate this treaty.

Disputes over the exercise of powers in the sphere of the joint jurisdiction of the organs of state power of the Russian Federation and the organs of state power of the Republic of Tatarstan are resolved according to a procedure agreed between them.

Article VII

For the purposes of implementing this treaty the organs of state power of the Russian Federation and the organs of state power of the Republic of Tatarstan may conclude additional agreements and create joint structures and commissions on an equal footing.

Article VIII

The organs of state power of the Russian Federation and the organs of state power of the Republic of Tatarstan have plenipotentiary representatives in the cities of Kazan and Moscow respectively.

Article IX

The treaty or its individual provisions may not be unilaterally repealed, altered, or supplemented.

The treaty comes into force seven days after signing and is to be published.

Done in the city of Moscow 15 February 1994 in two copies, each in the Russian and Tatar languages, both texts being equally authentic.

International Affairs

Russia Continues To Supply Gas to Country

LD2202235794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1950 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] The head of the press office of the Ukrainian State Committee for Oil and Gas, Stepan Yalovega, has confirmed that Turkmenistan cut off deliveries of its natural gas to Ukraine. At the same time, he told Interfax-Ukraine that Russia continued to supply Ukraine with gas.

According to Yalovega, Ukrainian consumers "have nothing special to worry about, for the republic's facilities store gas in sufficient quantities which would last until the end of the heating season."

Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister Valentin Landyk told a press conference in Kiev today that Ukraine will send 60,000 tons of grain to Turkmenistan to reimburse part of its debt for Turkmen gas that he estimated at $150 Mn. However, Turkmenistan believes that the debt has already reached $700 Mn.

Landyk added that a telephone conversation between acting Ukrainian Prime Minister Yefim Zvyagilskiy and the Turkmen leadership failed to help resume the deliveries.

In 1993, Ukraine received 25.5 Bn cubic meters of gas from Turkmenistan and another 69 Bn cubic meters from Russia.

Turkmenistan To Restore Gas Supply

LD2202221294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2100 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Kiev—Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Valentyn Landyk, has informed a UNIAN correspondent that a telephone conversation took place on 22 February between Acting Prime Minister Yuhym Zvyahilskyy and representatives of the Turkmen Government on the matter of the suspension of the gas supply from Turkmenistan to Ukraine.

Following the Ukrainian side's reasoning that: "No one has done this before. If God has given you gas, it is not worth abusing this," a preliminary accord was reached on selling 60,000 tonnes of wheat to Turkmenistan to credit the debt and payment by Ukraine of $50 million of the 150 million debt. After this, it is likely that the supply of gas to Ukraine will be resumed.

Zlenko Advocates Political Solution for Yugoslav Crisis

WS2202210594 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko is continuing his visit to Germany. In an interview to the leading German newspaper FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG, Anatoliy Zlenko said: We did not make a mistake when we thought that the Yugoslav crisis should be settled by political means. A bombardment can only escalate the conflict. The Ukrainian foreign minister emphasized that the search is under way right now for political resolution of the Balkan problem, which is evidenced by the Russian proposal. Asked about Ukraine's participation in the UN-sponsored peace keeping mission in Yugoslavia, Anatoliy Zlenko said that the Ukrainian contingent of the blue helmets will increase by an additional 800 people.

Zlenko Begins Official Visit to Slovakia

LD2102120194 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] Anatoliy Zlenko, Ukraine's minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Bratislava on an official visit today. A special correspondent reports that in the course of the day the head of our state's foreign policy will hold talks with Slovakia's leaders. He is to meet Michal Kovac, president of the Slovak Republic, Ivan Gasparovic, chairman of the National Council, and Jozef Moravcik, minister of foreign affairs.

It is envisaged that the sides will exchange opinions with regard to the situation in Yugoslavia, analyze the state of economic and border cooperation between the two states, and express their positions concerning Ukraine's entry into European structures and its role in implementing the partnership for peace program.

Anatoliy Zlenko will also take part in the official opening ceremony of Ukraine's embassy in Bratislava.

Minister Says No Capability To Produce Nuclear Weapons

LD2202140394 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Ukraine's deputy minister of defense, Chief of Armaments of the Ukrainian Armed Forces Colonel-General Ivan Oliynyk met military attaches accredited at foreign embassies in Ukraine. Col-Gen Oliynyk stressed that Ukraine is capable of manufacturing up-to-date arms systems to world standards, except for nuclear ones. He stressed that Ukraine's desire to acquire the non- nuclear state status remains unchanged.

Official Refutes Report on Safety of Nuclear Arms

LD2202215194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Vice Foreign Minister of Ukraine Boris Tarasyuk speaking at a news conference in Kiev on Tuesday [22 February] called on Russia to end attacks on his republic concerning the safety of nuclear weapons deployed on its territory. On the IZVESTIYA newspaper's recent publication on the issue of part of the former Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal deployed in Ukraine, he said there were certain forces in Russia who did not want to see any normalization between Kiev and Moscow.

Tarasyuk also said that the article should disclose the Russian defence minister's secret letters and cables was not all random. He called for putting the issue on the agenda of the next CIS summit.

IZVESTIYA referring to informed sources maintains that commander of the long range nuclear weapons general Igor Sergeyev is no longer in control of the 43rd missile army deployed in Ukraine. Sergeyev says that "Russia is in no way able to monitor the safety of nuclear weapons deployed in Ukraine or guarantee their inadvertent use."

However, Deputy Defence Minister of Ukraine Ivan Bizhan said that Kiev retained administrative control of the nuclear forces while Russia was still in charge of operational and management control. He said that all functions of the military planning and duty were part of the operational control something that Ukraine would never interfere with.

Bizhan described as a lie the paper's allegations saying the Ukrainian nuclear force was grossly undermanned. He put the 43rd army was staffed by 85 percent in officers and 100 percent in non-commissioned officers and men. More than 80 percent of officers are Ukrainian citizens, Bizhan said.

The Ukrainian official warned that the IZVESTIYA publication might strain relations between Kiev and Moscow.

Briefing Held on Nuclear Arms Safety

WS2302110194 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 23 Feb 94

[Text] A briefing held yesterday at the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry assessed the publication with a pretentious heading—commander in chief disclaims responsibility for safety of nuclear missiles in Ukraine—published by the newspaper IZVESTIYA on 22 February 1994 as a regular attempt of specific circles in the Russian Federation to exacerbate Russian-Ukrainian relations. Our correspondent Ihor Bak was present at this briefing.

[Begin Bak recording] First of all, I would like to clarify the matter for those who had not read this article. It says that Colonel General Igor Sergeyev, commander in chief of the Russian Strategic Missile Forces, disclaims responsibility for the safety of nuclear missiles deployed on Ukrainian soil. He reported on his decision in an official letter to the Russian defense minister. IZVESTIYA cites this letter and the facts which, as IZVESTIYA puts it, can cause social explosion in the missile units deployed on Ukrainian territory and produce unforeseeable consequences.

Therefore, at the briefing, Colonel General Ivan Bizhan, Ukrainian deputy defense minister, refuted all the figures and facts cited by IZVESTIYA. He admitted as trustworthy only the information on the number of launchers for SS-19 and SS-24 missiles which remained in combat readiness. Ivan Bizhan deemed as an invention claims that the commander of the 43d Missile Army Uladymir Mikhtyuk was forced to swear the Ukrainian loyalty oath. He is commander of the Army in which the prevailing majority of officers and warrant officers had voluntarily sworn allegiance to Ukraine. Moreover, history [as heard] makes officers—who for some reasons do not want to do it— swear loyalty to Ukraine. Due to the fact that they are specialists needed by Ukraine, nobody dismisses them from their positions. The officer strength level in the Ukrainian Missile Forces stands at over 85 percent and not at 60 percent, as IZVESTIYA reports. There are no reasons to make a fuss concerning the nuclear weapons in Ukraine, stated Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk, at the briefing. At the same time, he drew the attention of the journalists to the fact that IZVESTIYA had more than once published texts of coded messages and other classified documents. Therefore, this newspaper violates the agreement on state secrets signed by CIS states. [end recording]

National Affairs

Kravchuk Decides Not To Run for President

LD2302141294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1130 GMT 23 Feb 94

[Text] According to the message of the Ukrainian radio broadcast on Tuesday evening, in his interview with Radio Svoboda President Leonid Kravchuk declared about his intention not to participate in the presidential elections scheduled for June 26, 1994.

Explaining his move, he said that in his opinion it is hardly expedient to hold elections so soon. Kravchuk believes that presidential elections, to be held immediately after the parliamentary elections on March 27, will result in the excessive politicizing of society.

The second reason he gave for his unwillingness to run was the fact that he now bears a part of the responsibility for the present social and economic situation in Ukraine as "a man who is currently working." In his opinion, in the case of his participation, his contenders would spend their forces not to develop constructive programs but to prove that the present president has failed to fulfill his duties.

A commentator of the Ukrainian radio expressed regret due to the fact that this statement was provided for Radio Svoboda but not for the state TV and radio company. According to the commentator, "the presidential explanations do not look persuasive." "There are more questions than answers in the president's statement," said the commentator who preferred to stay anonymous.

Decision Questioned

WS2202210394 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] In an interview to Radio Liberty, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk announced his final decision not to participate in the next presidential campaign. The newspaper DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA published today an excerpt from this interview. In short, the president explains his decision as follows. The election to the Supreme Council will definitely drag out and be held in two rounds. Then, no sooner a new parliament gets a

chance to work than the presidential election will follow. It hardly makes sense to do this in such a short time. Second, in Leonid Kravchuk's opinion, participation in the elections would mean that he justifies the present economic and social situation. Third, the president believes that other candidates for this post do not direct all of their efforts at a constructive program, but at proving that he failed to perform his duties.

To be perfectly honest, the declaration by Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk came as a surprise, if only because we learned about the decision of the president, who was elected by all the people, not from a national source but from the foreign media. Although we learned from the sources close to the president that he retains his point of view, one cannot rid oneself of doubts regarding the reasoning of Leonid Makarovych. He does not want to exacerbate the political situation by his participation in the elections. But will his lack of participation not produce exactly this kind of result? Can one perceive the participation of Leonid Makarovych in the elections as his protection of the present complex economic and social situation? Perhaps on the contrary, is it not his lack of participation that will rather testify to the incorrectness of the previous course?

Finally, his third point about criticism of the president on the part of his rivals in the campaign. Can one ever imagine an election race without this in any democratic country? In one word, the decision by Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk not to participate in the next elections for the Ukrainian president contains more questions than answers.

Crimean Premier Saburov Flies to Simferopol

LD2202133594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1215 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Prominent Russian economist Yevgeniy Saburov, who was offered the post of Crimean premier by Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov, is flying out to Simferopol on Tuesday [22 February]. Saburov told Interfax a few hours before his departure that besides the Crimean capital he was planning to visit other cities of the Republic of Crimea (which is part of Ukraine).

To quote Saburov, his trip will last for 10 days. He is planning to evaluate the current state of the Crimean economy and legislation, and collect material necessary for drafting a strategy for Crimea's economic development.

Saburov will be accompanied by a group of experts most of whom come from Crimea.

Since his appointment to the post of Crimean prime minister, they have been busy studying the Crimean economy.

The new premier refused to name members of the future Crimean Cabinet. "I don't think any decisions should be taken in haste. We shall decide everything on the spot," he said.

No talks with the Ukrainian leaders figure in the program of the trip. "Such talks are premature," said Saburov. He noted, however, that if any of the Ukrainian leaders decided to hold the talks they would take place immediately.

Crimean Premier Discusses Political Issues

PM2202144194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Feb 94 First Edition pp 1-2

[Yelena Pavlova article including interview with Yevgeniy Saburov under the rubric "Man of the Week": "Perhaps It Will Be Warmer in the Crimea"]

[Text] Yevgeniy Saburov could quite possibly be called man of the week. He was twice at the center of public attention. The newspaper recently published his program for the Russian Government. Next week this well-known economist is flying to the Crimea. He has been invited there by Yuriy Meshkov, the leader of the government, who was recently elected president of the Republic of the Crimea.

The temperature on the peninsula is above zero. Local residents are already concerned about the approaching sowing work and in addition, of course, at the rising unemployment, the stoppage of enterprises, the rising cost of living, and the low wages. Generally speaking, then, it is like everywhere else. Will the political temperature change after the Russian Government team's arrival in the Crimea?

"It is hard to say," candidly admitted the 47-year old Saburov, who has spent almost all his life since graduation from the Moscow State University-Mechanical-Mathematical Department devoting himself to sectoral economics. "I am going there as an economist but there is work for a politician down there, too."

"Will Saburov take all his ministers with him from Moscow?"

"No, no way," he himself answered as he opened the door. "It will be necessary to form a balanced cabinet on the spot and we will have to include local representatives. Anyway, in principle I have not actually been appointed. At the moment, Yuriy Meshkov has only invited me to fill this post and I have agreed. Now it is necessary to study the law most carefully—and see how it is to be done..."

[Pavlova] Within Leonid Kravchuk's entourage the opinion has already been expressed that according to the law there cannot be a premier in the Crimea, is that not so?

[Saburov] I think that this is the initial reaction, that is all. There has been some misunderstanding here—we will investigate it together.

In Saburov's opinion, he is aware of how complex the status of the Crimea is and how difficult relations there could be in the future. But he is convinced that pro-Ukrainian people will not present serious opposition to his "duet" with Yuriy Meshkov. Even die-hard nationalists are still looking out for the well-being of their nation. If the

government team sets itself the task of raising the living standard of the Crimean people and if the specialists who have been invited in do not merely state this but actually get down to tackling the urgent questions here, things could improve.

What are the priorities in the Crimea? My interlocutor, a candidate of economic sciences, believes that one of the paramount and main problems is the establishment of market relations there.

[Pavlova] In your opinion, are the reforms in the republic going extremely sluggishly?

[Saburov] They have almost ground to a halt. This is where that half-forgotten word, acceleration, is needed—not in the formal sense of the word, of course. My task is to ensure that all citizens have the opportunity to work, to ensure that those employed in the state's service get their pay on time, that everyone has water and electricity, and that public transport works properly. This is the policy, but it is a national economic policy. Sorting it out will not be all that easy.

[Pavlova] Do you consider the problem of the [Black Sea] fleet an economic policy? After all, one way or another it will have to be dealt with?

[Saburov] Without fail. My task is to ensure that the Black Sea Fleet gets prompt finance and, to put it crudely, that the officers and seamen do not starve. And to ensure that, come what may, the fleet does not become a seething cauldron of passions. [Saburov ends]

It was difficult not to ask Saburov about the fleet. And the conversation on that theme was, to put it bluntly, not a brief one. But his main idea was this: To take all measures necessary to ease the social tension in the fleet. Furthermore, he said the same thing about the residents of settlements and cities. The measures needed there are somewhat different— a reliance on small- and medium-scale business, which will give the Crimean people both knowledge of the market and income and correspondingly will generate income for the Crimean exchequer which, in Saburov's opinion, is almost empty.

Will all this not be empty assurances and mere words? Definitely not, he believes, recently our people have been working more and more on the budget or on programs or else they have been selling off every last thing that they have... But for an economist (in power) to openly declare that his main task is the well-being of the people and not simply to declare it but to make every effort to achieve it—such a thing, in Saburov's opinion, has not happened in a long time.

The serious economic work which will begin after a detailed study of the situation on the spot will be highly specific, Saburov believes. Here in the capital he is already making promises but immediately seems to restrain himself. "Judge by my actions. The Crimea will be open to all—that is the first and the main thing, you will see that for yourself..."

[Pavlova] Yevgeniy Fedorovich, does the annexation [prisoyedineniye] of the Crimea to Russia feature in your plans?

[Saburov] This is unreal. After all, you know that it has a special status. Furthermore, I do not intend getting into a conflict with the motherland or aggravating the Ukrainian question. Breaking off ties is a bad thing to do, they must only be strengthened!"

My last question to Saburov was this: What will one of his first economic steps be? The answer was quite unexpected but, I think you will agree, interesting—to create the conditions for the activity of banks in the Crimea.

Supreme Council Discusses 9th Session Agenda

LD2202145894 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1221 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Kiev, 22 Feb—Plenary sessions of the ninth session of the Ukrainian Supreme Council have resumed. It was proposed that deputies examine 55 issues in four days. On 21 February, deputies proposed a draft law on the election of deputies and heads of rural, village, regional, municipal, and oblast councils for the agenda.

It was determined that the first issue to be examined on 23 February will be information from the Cabinet of Ministers on the course of implementing the Supreme Council's resolutions on the state of the economy in Ukraine, on overcoming the payments crisis in the national economy, on the payment of salaries and stipends, and on the state of payments for agricultural products.

A working group headed by Vasyl Durdynets, the first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council, is working on a draft resolution on the conformity of laws of the Crimean Republic with the Ukrainian Constitution. This issue will be examined at the evening session on 24 February along with the participation of representatives of the Crimean Republic's power bodies.

Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch informed those present about a speech which Ivan Yemets, head of the Central Election Commission, made at a meeting of the Supreme Council Presidium. He said that because of the absence of many records, a final result of the registration of parliamentary candidates was still not available.

Enterprises Ordered To Cut Gas Consumption

LD2202193494 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1546 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Kiev—A UNIAN correspondent learned on 22 February that in connection with the suspension of gas supplies from Turkmenistan to Ukraine from 21 February, Yevhen Sukhin, first deputy head of the State Committee for Oil and Gas, issued an instruction according to which he has obliged Ukraine's industrial enterprises to cut gas consumption by a total daily amount of 90 million cubic meters (this is equal to amounts of gas that Turkmenistan supplied to Ukraine). According to the instruction, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Machine-Building

and the Ministry of Energy have been recommended to draw up by 1000 on 22 February a list of enterprises that will have gas consumption restricted or cut. UkrBudMaterialy [Ukrainian construction and materials committee] and UkrTsement [Ukrainian Cement] have been instructed to immediately prepare for production to be suspended. The instruction has also been sent to heads of oblast state administrations.

As a UNIAN correspondent was informed on 22 February by UkrGazProm [Ukrainian gas industry committee], as of today the State Oil and Gas Committee's instruction had been carried out only by Ukraine's Ministry of Energy.

In the opinion of a UkrGazProm representative, who wished to remain anonymous, unless the situation changed there would only be enough gas for 2-3 days. If there is frost, there would be restrictions for domestic consumers as well as for industrial enterprises. The UNIAN correspondent was told that the situation was also being made more complicated because along with Turkmenistan, Russia had also suspended gas deliveries to Ukraine along the Yelets Dykanka gas pipeline.

UkrGazProm also said that if the gas situation in Ukraine became more complicated, one would have to illegally take Russian gas, which is transported to countries of Western Europe through Ukraine. The amounts have not yet been determined but in the opinion of an UkrGazProm representative they would be between 20-25 million cubic meters daily.

Belarus

Latvian Prime Minister Arrives in Minsk for Talks

LD2102130094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1111 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs arrived in Minsk on Monday morning. On the same day he started talks with Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich at the government residence.

A bilateral agreement on creating a commission for the demilitarization and demarcation of the Belarusian-Latvian border and on a simplified procedure for border crossing by inhabitants of border areas is expected to be signed in Minsk.

Birkavs and Kebich are expected to sign a treaty on legal assistance between Latvia and Belarus, a bilateral agreement on ecological problems, and a trade/economic agreement for 1994.

A spokesman for the Latvian Government told Interfax, Birkavs is accompanied by a government delegation including railway and economics ministers, the commander of the border guard brigade and other officials.

Kebich, Birkavs Sign 8 Documents

WS2102152594 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1309 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs paid a one-day visit to Belarus on 21 February. In the morning, he held talks with Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich, as a result of which eight documents were signed. As BELAPAN learned, the documents concern, first of all, the state border between the two countries. The border is to remain the same as it was on 16 June 1940. During the talks, both sides agreed that it is necessary to expand cooperation between the two countries in various spheres of economy and politics. They particularly expressed their willingness to reach an agreement on mutually beneficial utilization of the Navapolatsk refinery and the Ventspils seaport. Also discussed was the possibility of establishing department stores in the capitals of both republics. Latvian products will be displayed, for example, by the Minsk supermarket Ryha. The situation of Belarusians in Latvia was also discussed at the meeting.

Kebich Welcomes Cargo Transit Accord

LD2102174594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1423 GMT 21 Feb 94

[Text] At their meeting in Minsk on Monday the prime ministers of Belarus and Latvia signed a package of documents concerning the essential issues in their bilateral relations.

These include a treaty on legal aid, accords on ecological problems and on the transit of special cargoes through Latvia, and a trade agreement for 1994. In addition, Vyacheslav Kebich and Valdis Birkavs signed a document on forming commissions designed to demarcate the border between the two countries and ease the rules for its crossing for those who live in the border areas.

As Prime Minister Kebich said at the news conference given after the meeting, the document on the transit of special cargoes through Latvia "is very useful for Belarus," since it grants Minsk the opportunity to transport through Latvia its weapons exported to different countries.

According to Kebich, the document also makes it easier to resolve problems connected with oil imports from the United Arab Emirates and other countries in the Middle East. "Belarus will buy the oil which is cheaper," the prime minister stressed. In his view, Belarus should not get tied to the Friendship oil pipeline.

Prime Minister Birkavs told the news conference that ethnic Belarusians living in Latvia will be guaranteed all human rights, even though dual citizenship will not be introduced in his country.

Agreement Reached on Arms Shipments

WS2202144894 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1100 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Unattributed report: "Belarus Is Planning To Trade Weapons"]

[Text] According to governmental circles, it is not excluded that Belarus will trade weapons in the nearest future. In any case, during the negotiations, Belarusian and Latvian Prime Ministers Vyacheslav Kebich and Valdis Birkavs discussed and agreed on the transit of Belarusian weapons through Latvian territory to its seaports.

Supreme Soviet Discusses Agenda

WS2202152894 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Report by Mikhail Rutkowski]

[Text] The session began, as usual, with people's deputies' speeches delivered during the miscellaneous section. In general, the floor was taken by members of the parliamentary opposition—Syamdzyanava, Novik, Dzeyka, Navumchyk, and Holubew. They sharply criticized the current political situation in the republic. Supreme Soviet Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb reported that the Supreme Soviet Presidium had received proposals to include certain other issues on the agenda. For example, draft legislation on archives, which was proposed by People's Deputy Aleh Trusaw, was included on the agenda. The issue of science and technical activities, on the other hand, did not receive the required number of votes and was not included on the agenda, as well as certain other issues. People's Deputy Ihar Demyanchuk approached the microphone and proposed to include on the agenda the issue of violating human rights in the Republic of Belarus. However, the issue was not included, because only 66 people's deputies supported this. Belarusian Attorney General Vasyl Shaladonaw came forward with a proposal to strip People's Deputy Syarhey Antonchyk of parliamentary immunity

and bring him to administrative account. One hundred eighty eight people's deputies voted to include this issue on the agenda. Therefore, the issue will be addressed at the current session. People's Deputy Uladzimir Novik suggested that the financial credit policy of the Republic of Belarus be discussed first. This was the course of the morning session. During the recess, I held an interview with People's Deputy Inesa Mikhaylovna Drabyshewskaya.

[Begin recording] [Rutkowski] It was not a coincidence that the issue of implementing the Chernobyl program was also excluded. Inessa Mikhaylovna, what is your opinion on the attitude of people's deputies toward resolving problems of Chernobyl?

[Drabyshewskaya, in Russian] I was really dumbfounded when they excluded the debate on implementing the Chernobyl program, because I live in the Chernobyl zone, and I was elected to serve as an advocate for this program. We know that the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster is evident in our oblast, with regard to the rate of diseases among adults and children, the deterioration of people's immune systems, and the rate of birth defects. The number of cases of oncological diseases increased by 6 percent last year, including among children.

[Rutkowski] What, in your opinion, are the reasons behind this specific attitude of people's deputies toward the Chernobyl problems?

[Drabyshewskaya] The Chernobyl problem is one of the most important economic problems. There is no money to implement this program. [Words indistinct] another, strictly political issue. The legislative body violated the law, having misinterpreted it.

[Rutkowski] Do you have in mind Syarhey Antonchyk?

[Drabyshewskaya] In this case this concerns Antonchyk, Drabyshewskaya, Kamay, and all people's deputies. This become a precedent. This precedent should be discussed by the legislative body according to a law that is called the rules. [end recording]

Now, I am talking with People's Deputy Stanislav Stanislavovich Shushkevich [former Supreme Soviet Chairman].

[Begin recording] [Rutkowski] Stanislav Stanislavovich, with what opinions and feelings did you come to today's session, and what is your assessment on the political situation in the Republic?

[Shushkevich] I came to the session to work. The point is whether we will discuss economic issues. I do not know if we are going to address them first. If these issues are not discussed, other things will not have any sense. Let us say frankly that the government is unable to manage the state, and that its goal is to give up our state to Russia under any conditions. We must resist this, because there are enough people in Belarus who are able to lead the state, and we must make room for them. The elections must be held. I believe that it is a felony to delay the elections until November. [end recording]

At the end of my report I will add that people are gathering at Independence Square and in front of the House of Government.

Makes Key Appointments

LD2202184494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1432 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] The Belarusian Parliament today approved 43-year-old Ivan Bambiza as deputy parliament speaker.

Bambiza was born in the Gomel Region, graduated from the agricultural institute in 1975. He occupies the post of secretary of the planning and budget and financial commission of the republic's parliament.

The parliament has approved Gennadiy Levitskiy as chairman of the KGB committee. Earlier General Levitskiy was deputy chairman of the KGB, then chief of the counterintelligence service.

First Vice-Premier Mikhail Myasnikovich proposed to appoint Vladimir Danko as Belarusian Interior Minister, who earlier worked as First Deputy Interior Minister. Danko was approved as Interior Minister by a majority vote.

Minsk Rally Demands Government Resignation

LD2202163794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] [Lyudmila Vilyuga] Today a continuation of the rally and strike started on 15 February at the initiative of the republican strike committee, the independent trade union and the Belarus People's Front, was expected in Independence Square in Minsk. The rally, which numbered about 1,500 people, however, did not turn into a large-scale event. It demanded that the government should resign, the parliament be dissolved and new elections to the Supreme Soviet be held. Incidentally, the last demand coincides with a demand put forward by the republican federation of trade unions.

Meanwhile, the people's deputies who met today after a break in the session were in no hurry to heed the voice of the people. They started with discussing the agenda. Today Stanislav Shushkevich, ex-chairman of the parliament, turned up in parliament for the first time since his resignation. Now he can appraise the Supreme Soviet's work under a different angle.

[Begin Shushkevich recording] The parliament does not want to heed the views of the minority. Its overwhelming majority is made up of old Communists elected when the Belarus Communist Party was in power. [end recording]

[Vilyuga] The parliamentary majority solved cadre issues quite efficiently today. Three generals took important offices: Uladimir Danko was appointed interior minister, Genadz Lavitski—chairman of the KGB, and (Anatoliy Novikov)—chairman of the Supreme Soviet's commission for national security and combating crime. Ivan Bambiza was elected new deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet.

NATO Military Inspection Team Arrives

LD2102154594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1335 GMT 21 Feb 94

[By BELINFORM-TASS]

[Text] Minsk February 21 TASS—In accordance with the treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe, the NATO military inspection under the flag of West [as received] Germany has begun working on the base for storage of military equipment located near the city of Borisov in Belarus.

The place of inspection was chosen by the NATO experts themselves an hour after their arrivnl to the Minsk-2 Airport as it is stipulated by the treaty. At the present time NATO inspectors examine and count units of materiel on the base.

Arriving together with a group of inspectors from West Germany, Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands were also chief of the Bundeswehr center for problems of control, Brigadier General Heinz Lokwai, and deputy of the Bundestag, Dr. Gunther Mueller. They will familiarize themselves with the process of destroying tanks and infantry combat vehicles at the Borisov tank repairs plant which is being carried out also in accordance with the treaty.

The inspection is due to complete its work on February 22.

Government's Additional Powers Confirmed

LD2202232894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1950 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] The Belarusian parliament constitutionally confirmed the additional powers granted to the government. The parliament's session on Tuesday adopted a decision under which the prime minister was granted the authority to alter the composition of the government, to appoint and discharge the government's members coordinating the decisions with the Supreme Soviet's presidium and the appropriate parliamentary commissions.

However, the Supreme Council preserved the powers to appoint and to discharge the leaders of the power structures and the foreign minister, an Interfax correspondent in Minsk reported.

Shushkevich Criticizes Government

WS2102203894 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Belarusian 17 Feb 94 p 2

[Report by Anatol Hatowchyts: "One Should Not Deceive People..."]

[Text] No politician has recently attracted more attention of Homel Oblast residents than Stanislav Shushkevich, the former Supreme Soviet chairman. Invited by the City Council of the "Vyasna '94" Association [Spring], the former legislative speaker visited Homel and had three meetings here—with activists of democratic parties and movements, with "Homselmash" plant workers, and with broad circles of the public.

The meetings evoked so much interest that the audience spilled from the room over to the hallways. By the way, Mr. Shushkevich did not come all by himself. He was accompanied by the deputy from Homel Aleskandr Sasnow, head of the legislative standing commission, and Aleksandr Dabravolski, leader of the United Democratic Party of Belarus.

It stands to reason that the current political and economic situation of Belarus was the focus of their attention. It is worsening, and people should not be deceived about this. Meanwhile, the old Constitution, after its Article 6 about the leading role of the Communist Party has been removed, specifies no one to control operations of the government. It has been three years since the Kebich government went from one extreme to another—to no effect, though. It even does not allow "its own" newspapers to criticize it. This is easy to explain—it is not capable of governing, it can only execute someone else's instructions.

To corroborate his point, Stanislav Shushkevich brought up three facts. Although Belarus declared its sovereignty, it now faces the question of abandoning it. Although a market transition program was adopted some time ago, it is practically dead now. Was the government brought to account for those failures? Of course, not. By giving good positions to many deputies, titles, and convenient land plots for houses, the Kebich government formed a virtually unsinkable pro-government lobby in the Supreme Soviet from the old nomenklatura. This lobby drags its feet on adopting a new constitution and many other things.

In this situation, S. Shushkevich thinks that the democratic parties and movements should rally around the idea of building Belarusian sovereignty, democracy, market economy, and force the Supreme Soviet to keep to its declaration on calling early elections this spring. This will enable a whole range of urgent problems, including that of the government, to be resolved as soon as possible. In the opinion of Stanislav Shushkevich, people can determine on their own who to vote for and whom to entrust with their lives over the next five years.

It was the demand for immediate legislative elections that moved Mr. Shushkevich closer to the "Vyasna '94" bloc, even though the former speaker has no intention so far of joining any particular party. Also, his answers show that he does not intend to establish his own party, either. So, this man will probably play a coordinating role in the democratic camp, which no one has played well so far. This is why Stanislav Shushkevich once said that he mastered another profession over the past three years—that of a politician. He proved that in Homel—and not only through a deep and comprehensive understanding of the situation and witty answers that now and then made the audience burst into applause. The most important thing is that he does not look defeated. During one meeting, he artistically brought to nothing attempts by several dozens of political hacks to obstruct the dialog.

I believe that many from the audience felt and realized that it is too early for Shushkevich to leave big politics. And as many, it turned out, are ready to give their votes to that politician with high integrity. Ridiculous accusations of misconduct just would not stick to him.

P.S. As we have just learned, Stanislav Shushkevich was invited to visit Baranovichi, Borisov, Orsha, and other cities of the Republic.

Moldova

Snegur Discusses Ties With Romania

AU2302100694 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 2049 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Interview with President Mircea Snegur by Romanian Radio Broadcasting Company Director General Eugen Preda in Chisinau on 22 February—recorded]

[Text] [Preda] It is Tuesday, 22 February, 1234 [1034 GMT]. We are in the office of the president of the Republic of Moldova, Mircea Snegur, who was kind enough to receive us for an interview intended for the Actualitati [Current Events] program of Radio Romania.

Mr. President, this is the third time you honor me by personally granting me an interview. I recall that on 28 July 1991 you gave me the first. Please, allow me to quote a passage from the end of that interview: To the listeners of Radio Romania, whom I esteem very much, today, on the 28th of July 1991, I would like to again wish you much health, happiness, and success. Let us remember that we are relatives, we have common roots. Let us hope that, by the joint actions we are undertaking with the Romanian party, our history will reach a peak in our development. Success, good luck, happiness, and let us cultivate our kinship. I conclude the quote.

A long period of time has elapsed since then. Would you be so kind and continue the idea you expressed then and anchor it to the current moment?

[Snegur] Of course, a great deal of time has elapsed since that moment, but in principle, in that context, my way of thinking has not changed, and if you remember, during our recent [5 February] congress titled "Our Home, the Republic of Moldova" the same things were reiterated related to our history and descent, as well as the need to maintain our ties and to cultivate our kinship, as I said at that time. Thus, in principle, the main idea calling for us to cultivate our ties as relatives remains valid.

However, I can also see the reason behind your question referring especially to that issue, and that is, I believe, the anti-Snegur campaign launched in the Romanian press following the aforementioned congress, Our Home, the Republic of Moldova. In connection with this I would like to point out that our policy is a sensible one in all domains, and it is being permanently adapted to the reality in the Republic of Moldova and to the people's wish to strengthen the state character of our country, to develop as an independent state, and to preserve our territorial integrity. At the same time, within the very same policy, the principal directions regarding the spiritual and economic integration of the Republic of Moldova with Romania have remained unaltered.

[Preda] I would like to ask you a question regarding the Ilascu case. What is your current assessment of that case?

[Snegur] Related to the Ilascu case I would like to say that I prefer to act, rather than talk about it, so that my intentions and hopes are still the same, namely that we will manage to transfer those political prisoners to the constitutional juridical bodies of the Republic of Moldova. We have taken measures to that end, and we have also asked for the support of those who can influence the mentality of the Tiraspol secessionist leaders. To that purpose I do not find it embarrassing and I do not try to avoid to meet and engage in dialogues, regardless of whether they are direct ones or not, with the Tiraspol authorities. As a matter of fact, yesterday a number of [Moldovan] officials held talks there on the holding of the [27 February] general elections in that region as well, and on the need to maintain our economic and other ties. During those talks, they again approached that issue [the Ilascu case]. As a result of our efforts, the Dniester leaders, Grigore Maracuta, for instance, made a number of declarations stating that they would revise the [death] sentence and adopt different decisions. I optimistically assess that the problem will be solved in the end.

[Preda] Recently the inter-ministerial commission met in Bucharest. I understand that both Bucharest and Chisinau assess its activity positively. What are your views regarding our bilateral cooperation?

[Snegur] I consider that our prospects are very good, because if one draws a balance of our ties and our actions undertaken last year, in 1993, one can see that a number of new measures and concrete directions were decided upon to enhance our bilateral, mutually advantageous economic cooperation. I am pleased to mention that, during the meeting, you mentioned they did not talk about politics, but rather about the concrete problems that ought to be solved by the inter-ministerial commission. This is a thing that encourages us in a certain way. We maintain our former position, namely that the establishment of concrete ties between our companies ought to be boosted and speeded up, and the commission is able to set up a certain framework promoting such ties.

I was briefed on the meeting thanks to you—as you carried ample reports both on radio and television—but, of course I was also briefed here, at home, by the head of our delegation, and I found that their meeting was a positive and encouraging one.

[Preda] Mr. President, the inter-ministerial meeting established a kind of a schedule with respect to various contacts. According to that schedule, this year the prime ministers are to meet twice, plus the two meetings of the inter-ministerial commission. This means that a meeting will

take place in each quarter. Do you expect other meetings as well, perhaps at an even higher level?

[Snegur] In my opinion, the good understanding between us and our ties make it possible for us to meet at any time. It is true that the meetings we held over the past years had been planned and the agendas had been worked out well in advance, but whenever problems arise, Mr. President Ion Iliescu and I contact each other over the telephone and if we decide to see each other we meet and discuss those problems. Lately the issue of holding a meeting did not occur to us, but I think that a meeting at the highest level cannot be excluded.

[Preda] I would like to thank you very much and, in conclusion perhaps you would like to address a few words to our listeners in Romania.

[Snegur] All right, I will do that. All I can say is that next time we will [words indistinct] such good wishes. This is welcome because a certain continuity is needed, but please believe me that I am making efforts to promote a consequent policy.

My best wishes to the radio listeners. May this year bring rain and peace. I wish that in Romania work will continue to further the economic reform. Thus Romania would advance a little bit in the promotion of the reforms. Thus we will also have the possibility to examine and turn to good account the good things they do, but also learn from certain mistakes that are made. We admire and watch with satisfaction the democratization processes in Romania and, as a result of this, you will be witnessing multiparty elections [on 27 February]. [passage indistinct] I hope that this will be a fruitful year in results and that the harvest will be good, which will raise the standard of living of the population.

I wish you much health and happiness.

[Preda] Thank you.

Foreign Minister Briefs Press on Warsaw Visit

AU2202075794 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1830 GMT 19 Feb 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 19/2/1994—During Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs delegation's visit to Poland, the treaty on friendship and cooperation was elaborated. The treaty will be signed with the occasion of President Snegur's visit to Poland, scheduled for April-May 1994, stated today in a press conference Ion Botnaru, minister ad-interim of foreign affairs. The protocol on consultation between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the two states was also signed in Warsaw. Moldovan delegation elaborated a series of documents among which the agreement on avoiding double taxation and on protecting foreign investments; the documents will be signed in April-May, 1994. The possibility for intensifying economic relations between Moldova and West Europe was analyzed during the delegation's meetings with Warsaw officials. The opening of Moldovan Embassy in Poland in the first half of 1994 was also discussed. Polish side expressed its availability to cooperate with Moldova especially in commercial and economic spheres. Poland is interested in importing Moldovan wine, champagne and cognac for hard currency. Botnaru said the Dniester problem was touched during the discussions. He emphasized that Dniester should be granted a special status. "We have to find solutions that will undermine Tiraspol leaders' position and will attract the masses on our side," said Botnaru. Concerning the entitlement of Aurelian Danila, presently Moldovan Ambassador in Bucharest, as Moldovan Ambassador in Vienna, Botnaru said that he would like to see in Austria "a professional who knows two foreign languages and the multilateral diplomacy." "We are in the search of an Ambassador for Bucharest and we would like our second ambassador in Bucharest to do much more for transforming the agency of meetings and parties in a real embassy that would deal with Romanian-Moldovan relations," said Botnaru.

Tajikistan

Afghanistan Accused of Interfering in Tajik Affairs

LD2202154194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1501 GMT 22 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe February 22 TASS—A note of the Tajik Foreign Ministry was sent to the Afghan consul in Dushanbe today to accuse the Afghan authorities of interference in Tajik internal affairs. The note to be passed over to the Afghan leaders says the Afghan side violates the bilateral treaty on friendship, cooperation and good-neighbourly relations signed in December 1993.

In the opinion of the Tajik side, the accusations are grounded with the assignment of Afghan border territories to militants of the Tajik opposition, who systematically shell Russian border posts and Tajik villages together with Afghan mujaheddin not controlled by the official Kabul authorities.

Several populated localities of the border Shuro-Abad region in the Tajik south were shelled on February 21 from Afghan territory, says the document. A many-hour fighting was imposed on the 12th border post of the Moscow border unit by a mixed group of Tajik militants and Afghan mujaheddin who infiltrated inside Tajikistan.

The Tajik government also has information on preparations for terrorist acts and acts of sabotage in the border Shaartuz, Kabodien, Pyandzh and some other regions in the Tajik south.

The Tajik side demands that the Afghan leadership take the most decisive measures to prevent hostile actions against sovereign Tajikistan and the Russian border units, says the document. Otherwise, the Tajik government preserves the right to stop armed provocations up to destruction of Tajik militants' bases on Afghan territory.

Attacks Across Border Continue

LD2302110994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1026 GMT 23 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe February 23 TASS—Despite Dushanbe's call on the Afghan leadership to take steps to avert acts of armed provocation against sovereign Tajikistan and Russian border troops from Afghan territory, the village of Sarigor in Tajikistan's south was again shelled on Tuesday night, according to sources in the information department of Tajikistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

According to the same source, the Russian border troops responded by devastating fire which destroyed a mixed group of Tajik opposition militants and Afghan mojahedin near the 12 border post of the Moscow border unit. The Russian border troops are fully in control of the area now.

Along with this the source in Tajikistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs cited the command of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan as saying that more Tajik opposition militants have been observed concentrating near the Afghan city of Talukan, province of Tahor, and moving towards the border. The source did not rule out the possibility of a new act of armed provocation against the Russian border troops in the region.

Rakhmanov Makes Armed Forces Day Address

LD2202120494 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Address by Supreme Council Chairman Imamali Rakhmanov to Armed Forces staff on the occasion of Armed Forces Day; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear comrades, the people of the Republic of Tajikistan will ceremonially mark the anniversary of the creation of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Tajikistan on 23 February [1994].

The Armed Forces of the republic were formed in the extremely difficult conditions of the social and political situation, and the civil war. The first units of the Armed Forces that were formed during a short period of time, together with the military units of the Internal Affairs and Security Ministries of the Republic of Tajikistan, made a huge contribution to the stabilization of the social and political situation and strengthening the defense capability of the republic.

The people of the Republic of Tajikistan will remember forever the names of those soldiers and commanders of the Armed Forces who were killed in actions for the noble cause, the freedom and independence of their motherland.

I congratulate you, dear comrades on the occasion of the anniversary of creation of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Tajikistan. I wish you sound health, happiness, and success. I am confident that the Command and the Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Tajikistan will do their best to protect and to promote the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Tajikistan.

[Signed] Imamali Rakhmanov, the head of state and Supreme Council chairman of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Armenia

Georgian Premier Discusses Gas Supplies With Armenia

NC2202190594 Yerevan SNARK in English 1454 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Yerevan, February 22 (SNARK)—Today the details of the yesterday's visit of Otar Patsatsia, the Georgian prime-minister, to Armenia became known. He has met with Levon Ter-Petrosyan, the Armenian president, and Grant Bagratyan, the prime-minister of Armenia. Today Vahan Papazyan, the foreign minister, told reporters about the negotiation. According to him Armenia in contrast to Georgia and other CIS's countries hasn't got debts for gas supplied by Turkmenistan.

The minister said that Armenia is ready to give half of the gas purchasing in Turkmenistan to Georgia, however, in return for it, Georgia must provide unimpeded passing of loads for Armenia through its territory, including the loads from the ports of Poti and Batumi. According to Vahan Papazyan, Otar Patsatsia wasn't ready to accept the proposals of Armenian party. But Vahan Papazyan expressed the hope that after appropriate consultations the political authorities of Georgia will accept the proposal suggested by Armenia.

Azerbaijani Military Options in Karabakh Said Exhausted

LD2302104994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0623 GMT 23 Feb 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Baku's desire for regional truce follows a realization that ways of resolving the Armenian-Azeri conflict on the battlefield have been exhausted, a senior Armenian official told Interfax.

He also pointed to recent military successes by Karabakh forces which regained control of the Omar Pass in the Azeri region of Kelbajar and to the tough stand taken by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev during recent talks between the Armenian and Azeri defence chiefs. The official said Baku must have realized that if Grachev wound up his mediation, "its only hope will be a military option which leads nowhere".

The Armenian official hopes the agreement will be implemented in stages. A permanent cease-fire must be followed by troop withdrawals, exchange of prisoners and negotiations on the status of Nagorno-Karabakh. He said the main thing now was to stop the bloodletting because negotiation was a lengthy process.

The source expressed regret that the international community should proceed from the principle of territorial integrity on resolving the conflict. He described it as a superb principle unless applied to the Karabakh issue. "This is the internal issue of Azerbaijan of which Karabakh used to be part until recently but it declared its independence following the national-liberation struggle", the source said. Therefore, the principle of integrity should not be applied to the disputed territory, he said.

In the meantime, head of the information and analysis center of Armenia's large opposition Dashnaktsutyun Party Bagrat Sadoian fears that any cease-fire will only play into the hands of Azerbaijan which ran out of its military resources after the failure of an offensive it began at the end of December.

Sadoian thinks Baku cannot put up with the idea of losing Karabakh and is now trying to regain it.

Combat Activity in Nagorno-Karabakh Resumes After Lull

NC2202221194 Yerevan SNARK in English 1530 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Stepanakert, February 22 (SNARK)—Active combats have resumed today in a number of places on the Karabakh-Azerbaijan confrontation line. As told to SNARK by the Karabakh Defence Army press-service, Azerbaijani troops undertook since morning Feb. 22 an offensive in Martuniskiy and Fizoulinskiy directions, at the Eastern and South-Eastern battle areas. By the noon data, here combats were started in process of which the Karabakh forces were able to neutralize the enemy's efforts. As yet there is no information of losses. At the same time, artillery shelling of Karabakh Army positions is made in suburbs of regional center Mardakert. Karabakh side undertook counter actions.

Azerbaijan

Preview of Aliyev's Visit to Britain

Agenda of Visit Detailed

NC2202174494 Baku Radio Baku International Service in Azeri 1300 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] President Geydar Aliyev's visit to Britain began today and will end on ** February. Aliyev will hold talks on issues relating to the mutual relations between Azerbaijan and Britain, the way to end the dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia, and economic issues. Afshin Mekhtiyev, a representative of the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry, briefed journalists in Baku on Aliyev's visit.

Aliyev will hold talks with Prime Minister John Major in London. He will also hold talks with other government officials and meet British businessmen. According to Mekhtiyev, several documents will be drawn up on bilateral cooperation in the political, economic, scientific, and educational fields. Mekhtiyev said he may also discuss cooperation between the Azerbaijani State Oil Company and British Petroleum on oil extraction.

Aliyev Comments at Airport

NC2202204694 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Republic's President Geydar Aliyev left for an official visit to Great Britain today. Our correspondent reports:

[Begin recording] [Akif Mecitoglu] Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev left for an official visit to Great Britain today at the invitation of the British Prime Minister John Major. Agreements on political, economic, and cultural cooperation will be signed between the two countries.

[Unidentified correspondent] Esteemed President, the signing of a number of economic cooperation agreements between Azerbaijan and Great Britain is envisaged. You will also be meeting with British businessmen and state officials. What effect will such ties have on the development of Azerbaijan's economy?

[Aliyev] The Azerbaijani president's visit to Great Britain is aimed at establishing and developing ties between Azerbaijan and Great Britain. This is because, since the attainment of independence, Azerbaijan has not yet been able to forge interstate ties with a great world power such as Great Britain to the degree needed. The British ambassador arrived here only a few months ago, and Azerbaijan's ambassador left for Great Britain only in recent days. Thus, diplomatic ties are just being established. As a young independent state, Azerbaijan is in dire need of broad interstate ties, first and foremost political and economic ties. The economic ties in themselves cover a broad spectrum, ranging from trade to close ties between the various British and Azerbaijani business circles to scientific and cultural ties.

As you know, Britain is one of the major world powers, is one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, and is one of the seven most developed countries. Both in the past and at present Britain has been strongly influencing international politics and economics. Therefore, the creation of close ties between Azerbaijan and Great Britain is first of all exceedingly important for the national interest of the Azerbaijani Republic. We are also aware that Britain itself is highly interested in Azerbaijan. It wants to establish economic ties with Azerbaijan. Historically, Britain's interest in the Caucasus and Azerbaijan is obvious. In this present stage at the end of the 20th century, Britain wants to establish economic ties with Azerbaijan on a new foundation. We have already accomplished some work in this direction. That is, we have done preparatory work. We have to resolve all these matters there.

As you know, my visit to Britain is of an official nature. This is an official state visit that is taking place at the invitation of British Prime Minister John Major. Some days ago I received a letter from Mr. John Major in which he says that he is looking forward for our meeting and is hopeful that this meeting will produce fruitful results for Britain and Azerbaijan.

Therefore, I attribute great importance to this visit and hope that the British leaders are also giving it great importance. Our program there is now clear: There will be talks with Prime Minister John Major and we will sign a number of agreements with both the prime minister and other officials. We will have meetings at the British Parliament and at other state departments. Undoubtedly, all these are important matters aimed at strengthening our young and independent Azerbaijan's foreign policy and its international position. And I am going to Britain to resolve these problems.

[Unidentified correspondent] We wish you success.

[Aliyev] Thank you.

[Mecitoglu] Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Rasul Guliyev, Prime Minister Suret Guseynov, and other officials saw off the president at Bina Airport. [end recording]

Reasons for Visit Viewed

MK2202132094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 22 Feb 94 p 4

[Georgiy Bovt report: "Geydar Aliyev's Visit to London. Azerbaijan President To Consult British "Physicians"]

[Text] Azerbaijan President Geydar Aliyev arrived in London on 19 February. The very fact of the visit is not being made much of, but the president is known to have spent some two days in the British capital. The reason bringing the Azeri leader to the shores of misty Albion, the entire press in the republic says in one voice, is the desire to "restore his health" and "consult English physicians." But even if a visit to physicians takes place after all, the real purpose of the visit is obviously not that. The Azerbaijan president, one may suppose, is to agree on terms of the contract with the international oil concern led by British Petroleum (KOMMERSANT-DAILY wrote last on its terms on 17 Feb).

The republic's press, controlled by the authorities, also spill the true aims of Aliyev's trip: Shortly before the visit, the newspaper AZARLYK mulled over how successfully Aliyev would be able "to play the oil card." Besides, the Great Britain visit is a logical continuation of the Turkey voyage 10 days earlier. Discussed in Ankara were the terms of the Turkish side's participation in the international consortium and the route for the projected pipeline along which oil will flow to Turkish terminals bypassing Novorossiysk (Russia plans to export oil across its own territory).

The other problem Aliyev intends to discuss in London is a Karabakh settlement. Great Britain has lately been increasingly active in this process (given the fact it is not a member of the CSCE "Minsk Group" on Nagorno-Karabakh). This is welcomed by Baku, which seeks independence from Moscow in this process.

Among the delicate questions Aliyev has to solve today is foreign assistance for his army, in whose ranks are now fighting 1,000 Afghan mujahidin and an unknown number of mercenaries from neighboring countries. Turkey has provided 300 military advisers, some 100 of whom are with the units in the field). True, Ankara denies this fact. The advisers are supposed to train Azeris in the use of Western military hardware which is being supplied through the two main channels—from Afghanistan (via Iran) and from Turkey. Baku has recently bought 50 tanks from Kiev. KOMMERSANT-DAILY has learned from Azeri diplomatic sources that the question of sending

British military advisers to Azerbaijan may also be discussed in London. Those providing this information specify, however, that advisers from Great Britain would take no part in combat operations and would only be doing "teaching work."

By internationalizing the situation around the war against the Armenians, Aliyev is also solving the problems of consolidating his own power. He is balancing between a big number of international partners (including Russia) while trying to firm up his shaken positions. Today, a whole series of regions in the republic (not counting 20 percent of the territory occupied by Armenians) are not controlled by the president. For example, the sole master of Azerbaijan's west is not Aliyev but his "premier rival," Suret Guseynov, who has armed formations, outside the national defense forces, including armored vehicles. Thus, the Azeri press is quite right: Aliyev is off to London to really "restore his health." Political health, that is.

Georgian Premier To Allow Azeris To Monitor Oil to Armenia

NC2202200794 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Azerbaijani Prime Minister Suret Guseynov received today the Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia and his deputy Zorab Kervalishvili.

[Begin Sadiq Guzelov recording] Matters of mutual interest were discussed at the meeting. Otar Patsatsia requested a supply of fuel to Georgia. He also asked for support in organizing the visit of Georgian and Azerbaijani experts to Iran and the talks there in connection with the supply of the Iranian gas to Georgia. An agreement was reached on this issue.

The problem of the diversion of a part of the fuel purchased from Azerbaijan to Armenia via Georgia was also seriously discussed. The Georgian prime minister said that various commercial organizations are behind this diversion. Suret Guseynov's proposal for Azerbaijani representatives to oversee this matter from inside Georgia was accepted.

In briefing the guests about the grave situation existing in the republic as a result of the six-year-old aggression by Armenia, Azerbaijani Prime Minister Suret Guseynov said that despite all the difficulties Azerbaijan will not withhold its assistance to Georgia, with whom it has lived in friendship for centuries.

Suret Guseynov also touched upon the problems of our more than half a million compatriots living in Georgia, and hoped that the Georgian Government will do everything to solve their problems.

Deputy Prime Minister Abbas Abbasov and Economy Minister Samed Sadykhov also took part in the meeting.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Shooting of Prisoners

NC2202173394 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 0400 GMT 22 Feb 94

["Text" of an Foreign Ministry statement on the shooting of prisoners in Armenia on 15 February; date issued not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Some 23 Azerbaijani prisoners were shot in a POW camp for 300 captives near Spitak in Armenia on 15 February. In a statement on 16 February, the Armenian Foreign Ministry officially admitted that eight Azerbaijani prisoners were shot and killed while attempting to escape. The ministry also said that the Armenian Defense Ministry was investigating the incident in accordance with the Geneva Conventions and that the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] representative in Yerevan had been informed of the situation.

The world condemned the criminal practice of establishing camps for POW's long ago. The Geneva Conventions adopted in 1949 called for the safety of war victims. Those Conventions banned the inhuman treatment of POW's.

Armenia's criminal action not only grossly conflicted with the Conventions but also openly violated the accepted norms of morality and international law. The Azerbaijani prisoners were shot after Azerbaijan revealed that it was prepared to unconditionally exchange all the hostages and POW's.

Azerbaijan's government organs have unilaterally released over 100 Armenian POW's since August 1993 and, in accordance with its signing of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, Azerbaijan has revealed that it condemns the taking of hostages by any side during the military operations. Azerbaijan's ruling organs repeatedly appealed to their counterparts in Armenia to maintain a similar approach to the issue of the Azerbaijani hostages and POW's. But the Republic's appeals failed to yield a result.

The mistreatment of the innocent war victims reconfirms Armenia's involvement in the war against Azerbaijan. Otherwise, why should POW camps be established near Gumry, Spitak, Echmiadzin, and Gugark in Armenia? Over 3,500 people are imprisoned in them, most of them children, women, and elderly people.

The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry expresses indignation over the Armenian ruling organs' fearless activities and describes them as inhuman. It calls on the international community, the ICRC, and other international and humanitarian organizations to investigate all the aspects of Armenia's criminal action.

Karabakh Commander on Azeri 'Blunder'

LD2202204694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] In an interview with Interfax the Deputy Commander of Nagorno-Karabakh's defence forces, General Khristofor Ivanian, described the attempt to drive a wedge

into Karabakh defences in Kelbajar District as "a gross blunder on the part of the Azeri command."

According to him, the Karabakh units holding most of the heights there did not find it hard 5 days ago to surround and neutralize a large Azeri army group. "The adventure in Kelbajar, which pursued largely political goals, turned for Azerbaijan into pointless losses; over 500 troops got frozen to death high in the mountains," Ivanian said.

In the meantime the Karabakh army's arsenal was supplemented with trophies: 12 armored vehicles, including five tanks, two 152-mm self-propelled artillery installations, a jet rocket system, heavy guns and other military equipment. According to the general, about 20 Azeri servicemen surrendered. The Karabakh side lost 3 men; 1[illegible] troops were wounded.

The general believes that, having failed to score genuine success in its two-months-long offensive, Azerbaijan ought to get convinced once again that "to use the language of force toward the people of Karabakh" is useless.

Georgia

Paper Publishes Free Trade Agreement With Russia

AU2202201794 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 8 Feb 94 p 1, 2

["Agreement on Free Trade Between the Republic of Georgia Government and the Russian Federation Government"]

[Text] The Republic of Georgia Government and the Russian Federation Government,

Aiming to develop commercial and economic cooperation between the Republic of Georgia and the Russian Federation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit,

Proceeding from the sovereign right of each of the contracting parties to conduct an independent foreign economic policy and ensure the fulfillment of corresponding international obligations and the realization of intentions that have been proclaimed,

Intending to promote the creation of a single market in goods, services, capital, and workforce,

Wishing to promote the creation of the appropriate conditions for the formation of a customs union between both countries,

Have agreed to the following:

Article 1

1. The contracting parties will not impose customs duties and taxes and charges that apply equally to the import and export of goods that proceed from the customs territory of one of the contracting parties and that are earmarked for delivery onto the customs territory of the other contracting party. The specific features pertaining to the application of trading conditions between both countries on an agreed range of goods will be drawn up in annual protocols that form an integral part of this agreement.

2. For the purposes of this agreement and for the period of its validity, goods proceeding from the territory of the contracting parties are understood as follows:

a) Goods that have been produced in their entirety on the territories of the contracting parties;

b) Goods that have been produced on the territories of the contracting parties, using raw and other materials and assembly components originating from third countries, with a change, in this case, in their classification, in accordance with the Classification of Goods of Foreign Economic Activity (CG FEA) based on the EC Coordinated System of Describing and Coding Goods and the Combined Tariff and Statistical Register; the first four characters must be used in the listing;

c) Goods that have been produced with the use of raw materials, materials, and assembly components mentioned in Point b on condition that their aggregate value does not exceed the fixed share of the export price of the saleable goods.

Detailed rules on the origins of goods will be drawn up by the contracting parties in a separate document that will form an integral part of this agreement.

Article 2

The contracting parties will not:

Impose direct or indirect internal taxes or charges on goods covered by this agreement that exceed the corresponding taxes or charges that are imposed on similar home-produced goods or goods originating from third countries;

Introduce, in respect of the import and/or export of goods covered by this agreement, any special restrictions and demands that, in a similar situation, are not being applied to similar home-produced goods or goods originating from third countries;

Apply rules, in respect of the warehousing, transshipment, storage, and carriage of goods originating from the other contracting party and also payments and the transfer of payments, other than those that are being applied in similar instances regarding one's own goods or goods originating from third countries.

Article 3

1. The contracting parties will refrain from imposing quantitative restrictions or equivalent measures on the export and/or import of goods within the framework of this agreement.

2. The quantitative restrictions mentioned in Point 1 of this article may be established by one side within reasonable limits and for a strictly defined period of time only:

When there is an acute shortage of the given goods on the internal market—until the situation on the market is stabilized;

When there is an acute deficit in the balance of payments—until the situation with the balance of payments is stabilized;

If any types of goods are imported onto the territory of one of the contracting parties in such increased quantities or under such conditions that harm or threaten to harm home producers of similar or directly competing goods;

In order to implement the measures stipulated in Article 4 of this agreement.

3. The quantitative restrictions mentioned in Point 1 of this article may also be established on the mutual agreement of the sides and be included in the annual protocols mentioned in Article 1 of this agreement.

4. The contracting side applying the quantitative restrictions in accordance with Point 2 of this article, at the request of the other contracting side, will supply the necessary information on the reasons for introducing the restrictions mentioned, their forms, and possible periods of duration.

5. The contracting sides will aim to resolve by means of consultations all questions arising in connection with the application of the quantitative restrictions mentioned in Point 2 of this article.

Article 4

Each of the contracting parties will not permit the reexport of goods on whose export the other contracting party from whose territory these goods originate is applying measures of tariff and/or non-tariff regulation.

The parties will exchange lists of goods on which measures of tariff and/or non-tariff regulation are being applied.

Such goods can be reexported to third countries only on written consent and under conditions defined by the authorized state body that is the country of origin of these goods. In the event that this clause is not implemented, the contracting party whose interests have been violated has the right to introduce measures against the other side to regulate the export of goods onto the territory of the contracting party that has permitted the unsanctioned reexport. At the same time, the currency earnings from such reexport are to be returned to the country from where the corresponding goods originated.

Each year, the contracting parties will additionally agree upon the conditions, range, and volume of goods permitted for reexport.

For the purposes of this article, reexport means the removal of goods originating from the customs territory of one of the contracting parties by the other contracting party beyond the limits of the latter's customs territory with the aim of exporting them to a third country.

Article 5

The contracting parties will exchange information on a regular basis on customs questions, including customs statistics. Bodies authorized by the contracting parties will draw up the procedure for the exchange of such information in a corresponding document.

Article 6

The contracting parties will undertake measures aimed at drawing together the levels of customs duty rates that are being applied in trade with third countries and, to this end, will hold regular consultations.

The contracting parties will inform one another about all exceptions regarding customs tariffs in force in their states.

Article 7

The contracting parties, in accordance with current legislation on their territories, will promote the expansion and deepening of equal and mutually advantageous economic and scientific and technological cooperation between economic subjects at all levels and forms of ownership and the creation of joint enterprises and international companies, involving also the participation of third countries, with the aim of utilizing their potentials in order to form an effective common economic space.

Article 8

The contracting parties recognize as incompatible with the aims of this agreement unfair business practice expressed, in particular, in the following:

In the conclusion of contracts between enterprises whose aim is to hinder or restrict competition or violate the conditions for it on the territories of the contracting parties;

In the carrying out of actions with whose help one or several enterprises use their position of dominance, restricting competition on all or a significant part of the territories of the contracting parties.

Article 9

The contracting parties will not use state aid in the form of subsidies to enterprises or in any other form if such state aid should result in the violation of normal economic conditions on the territory of the other contracting party.

Article 10

During the implementation of measures aimed at the tariff and non-tariff regulation of bilateral economic relations, in order to exchange statistical information and conduct customs procedures, the contracting parties have agreed to use the single nine-character Classification of Goods of Foreign Economic Activity (CG FEA) based on the Coordinated System of Describing and Coding Goods. At the same time, for the own needs of their states, the contracting parties, when necessary, will develop the classification of goods beyond nine characters.

The Russian Federation will introduce a standard copy of the classification of goods through its representations in the corresponding international organizations till such time as the Republic of Georgia announces that it is independently introducing such a copy.

Article 11

The contracting parties agree that the observance of the principle of free transit is a most important condition for achieving the aims of this agreement and an essential element in the process of their inclusion in the system of the international division of labor and collaboration.

In this respect, each of the contracting parties guarantees the unhindered transit through its territory of goods that originate from the customs territory of the other contracting party and/or third countries and that are earmarked for the customs territory of the other contracting party or any third country; they will offer exporters and importers all the available means and services necessary for ensuring transit under conditions that are no worse than those under which the same means and services are offered to their own exporters and importers or to exporters and importers from a third state.

The contracting parties will not demand payment for services connected with the warehousing, transshipment, storage, and carriage of goods in the currency of any third state.

Article 12

Nothing in this agreement should hinder any of the contracting parties from adopting measures that they consider necessary for the protection of their vital interests or that are absolutely necessary for the implementation of international treaties to which they are signatories, if these measures concern:

- Information that touches upon the interests of national defense;
- Trade in weapons, ammunition, and military hardware;
- Research or production connected with defense needs;
- The delivery of materials and equipment used in the nuclear industry;
- The protection of common morals and public order;
- The protection of industrial or intellectual property;
- Gold, silver, or other precious metals and stones;
- The protection of the health of people, animals, and plants.

Article 13

In order to develop trade between the two countries, the contracting parties will promote participation in trade fairs and exhibitions held in either of the two countries.

Article 14

This agreement does not affect the validity of other agreements concluded earlier between the contracting parties and third countries.

Article 15

Nothing in this agreement hinders the contracting parties from conducting relations with third countries and also their associations and international organizations provided these relations do not contradict the aims and conditions of this agreement. However, the contracting parties will hold consultations in those instances when these relations could affect the interests of one of the contracting parties, proceeding from this agreement.

Article 16

Disputes between the contracting parties concerning the interpretation or application of the terms of this agreement will be settled by means of negotiations.

Article 17

In order to implement this agreement and elaborate recommendations aimed at improving commercial and economic cooperation between the two countries, the contracting parties have agreed to form a joint Russian-Georgian commission.

Article 18

The contracting parties have agreed that the Republic of Georgia can set up its trade representation in the Russian Federation and the Russian Federation can set up its trade representation in the Republic of Georgia. The legal status of these trade representations and their location and function will be determined by a separate agreement.

Article 19

Any state may become a party to this agreement, provided the contracting parties approve this, under conditions that will be agreed upon between the acceding state and the contracting parties.

Article 20

The Protocol on Exemptions from the Free Trade Regulations, which the sides undertake to sign by 15 March 1994, is an integral part of this agreement.

Article 21

Changes or additions can be made to this agreement on the mutual agreement of the contracting parties. These changes and additions should be made in written form.

Article 22

This agreement comes into force on the date when notifications are exchanged on the completion by the contracting parties of internal state procedures that are necessary for it to come into force and it will remain in force for 12 months following the date on which one of the contracting parties sends the other contracting party written notification of its intention to annul it.

Concluded in Tbilisi on 3 February 1994 in two copies, each one in Georgian and Russian, and each having equal force.

[Signed] For the Republic of Georgia Government—Otar Patsatsia

For the Russian Federation Government—Oleg Soskovets

Parliament Postpones Government Confirmation

LD2202171894 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1530 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 22 Feb—IBERIA reports that at a meeting of the Georgian parliament today, Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze said that, owing to a grave energy crisis, the confirmation of the composition of the acting government should be postponed until 15 March. The majority of parliamentarians, including those from opposition factions, supported this proposal.

Troops Repulse Attack From Abkhaz Separatists

LD2202234294 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 2050 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] The CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY reports that despite the talks under way in Geneva, the Abkhaz separatists and their North Caucasian mercenaries are launching attacks from the Lata tunnels [the tunnels linking the Abkhaz-held plain with the Georgian-held eastern Abkhazian mountains] against the Georgian home guard in Abkhazian Svaneti.

The latest attack began at (?1020) on 22 February. After fierce fighting, the home guard repulsed the attack. At 1130, (?a vehicle) appeared near positions of the Georgian home guard, which they destroyed. Cossacks were found inside it. None of the Georgian home guard were killed.

All attempts by the Abkhaz separatists [words indistinct] are met with stiff resistance [words indistinct].

Gas Pipeline Security Linked to Russian Mediation

PM2202173794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Feb 94 p 2

[Vitaliy Denisov report under "In Brief" rubric: "Does Gas Supply to Armenia Depend on Russian Military Too?"]

[Text] Tbilisi—Yet again the gas pipeline supplying gas to Armenia has been blown up on Georgian territory. The Armenian Government has delivered a statement to the Georgian Government protesting that, despite repeated assurances, the Georgian authorities are not taking resolute measures to prevent such incidents. Many people in Armenia are linking the future security of the only gas main via which fuel is delivered to this country with a mediator's role for Russian troops.

Gas Supplies From Turkmenistan To Continue

LD2202180894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1432 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Gas supplies to Georgia from Turkmenistan will continue in the coming days. An understanding was reached Monday during telephone talks between President Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan and the Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, a spokesman for the Georgian leader has informed Interfax.

The spokesman said that Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsiya is expected to visit Ashgabat this week to continue the talks on postponement of the Georgian gas-supply debt to Turkmenistan.

By different estimates the debt amounts to $100-400 Mn.

Meanwhile, the energy crisis in Georgia has reached a peak. For two days, the republic was only supplied with a minimal of electric energy owing to the accident at the Tbilisi hydro-electric station. Metro, TV and radio stations did not work in Tbilisi. There is no water supply in Tbilisi homes. Telephones are on the blink.

The leader of the Georgian Energy Department Yuriy Chediya has told Interfax that the Tbilisi hydro-electric station has been repaired and supplies energy once again. The spokesman said that the situation would be critical if gas supplies were cut.

Estonia

Meri, Ministers Meet To Discuss Amari Incident

WS2302112894 Tallinn ETA in English 0827 GMT 23 Feb 94

[From 23 Febraury HOMMIKULEHT, PAEVALEHT, RAHVA HAAL, POSTIMEES, pp 1,3; "News Bulletin" No. 37/94]

[Text] Wednesday, February 23—President Lennart Meri called a special meeting of Foreign Minister Juri Luik, Interior Minister Heiki Arike and Defence Forces Commander in Chief General Aleksander Einseln yesterday to discuss the incident at the Amari airfield. The Defence Ministry failed to ascertain the location of Defence Minister Indrek Kannik, the presidential chancellery press release added.

The meeting discussed the incident and the "unacceptable inefficiency" of the information services to relay information directly concerning Estonia's security and international reputation, the press release read.

President Meri received Russian charge d'affaires Anatoliy Ivanov yesterday, who relayed Russian President Boris Yeltsin's congratulations in connection with Estonia's national holiday. The president assured the Russian representative that a thorough investigation will be carried out and the guilty persons will be punished.

Russian Charge d'Affaires Ivanov also met the head of the Foreign Ministry political section Toivo Klaar, who expressed his regret with Russia linking the incident to Estonia's official policy and also criticised Russia's reaction to the picketing of its naval HQ in Tallinn on Monday [21 February]. High Russian officials had described it as an inflammatory action, leading to provocations like the incident in Amari. But head of the Russian Foreign Ministry information section Grigoriy Karasin stressed that the incident is not seen as a political one. Still, he described it as a provocation.

The Interior Ministry considers a personal vendetta the most likely version. The ministry press release expressed suspicions that persons connected with the Russian Army unit may be involved. Amari has been mentioned as a gateway for illegal immigrants to Estonia and for the removal of stolen property to Russia.

Yeltsin Aide Comments

WS2202194294 Tallinn BNS in English 1632 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow, Feb 22, BNS—Alleging that Monday [21 February] night's attack against a guardhouse at the gates of the Russian air base of Amari in Estonia was an indication of the Estonian authorities' overall attitude toward the Russian troops, an aide to Russian President Boris Yeltsin today said the attack was another episode to reflect this attitude recently.

Dmitri Ryurikov, the presidential aide, in an interview with BNS said similar "provocations" had taken place on several occasions and that such action "would hardly contribute to progress in the negotiations" between the two countries.

Referring to an incident last month in Latvia, when a regional leader ordered two Russian generals detained and sent out of the country, Ryurikov called the sequence of events a "rather coordinated policy" of the Baltic countries.

He said the events were viewed by Russia as "regrettable." In his words Russia, having done "quite a lot" for the Baltics becoming sovereign and independent countries, "has the right to count on a definitely different attitude." "Russia hopes that no such episodes will occur in the future," he said.

Ryurikov said there was going to be no reaction to the incident from President Yeltsin.

The Russian Foreign Ministry on Monday delivered a protest to Estonian Ambassador Juri Kahn. "It is difficult to say how much effect such protests will have on the hotheads, on extremists, but one would like to trust that the authorities will implement measures to protect the Russian military units," the presidential aide said.

Foreign Ministry Expresses Regret

WS2202191094 Tallinn BNS in English 1435 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 22, BNS—The head of political department at the Estonian Foreign Ministry, Toivo Klaar, met with Russia's Charge d'Affaires Anatoli Ivanov in Tallinn today to discuss the incident that took place at the gates of a Russian-held air base in northwestern Estonia in early hours on Monday [21 February].

The Estonian Foreign Ministry departmental head expressed the country's regret at what had happened and said the Estonian authorities will do everything to find out those guilty in the incident. The regional police of the local Harjumaa country is conducting the investigation, he said.

Klaar spoke about the initial results of the investigation.

But he also said Estonia considered it inadmissible that Russia in its recent statements has presented the incident as standing in connection with Estonia's official policy, the Estonian Foreign Ministry press office reports.

Klaar said that Russian troops staying in Estonia against the will of the Estonian people are a source of potential risk.

He expressed bewilderment over the position voiced Monday by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Krolov, who sharply denounced the pickets that took place in front of the Russian naval garrison headquarters in Tallinn.

Klaar said Estonia as a democratic country was guaranteeing the freedom of expression for its people, and that it

is the freedom of parliament members to take part in such pickets. He was referring to Russia's protests over a deputy speaker of the Estonian parliament and the former foreign minister having taken part in picketing.

The statement by the Russian Foreign Ministry followed after Estonian Ambassador Juri Kahn had been called to the ministry in Moscow Monday to be delivered Russia's protest on the attack against guards in the gatehouse of the Amari air base, Estonia.

Five armed men had attacked the guardhouse, allegedly searching for weapons and ordering a Russian officer and a sergeant to lie on the ground outside. The attackers drove away in their car after setting the house on fire.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Krolov turned over to the Estonian ambassador the protest, calling the incident a provocation and an "extremely dangerous, purposeful action that may lead to consequences difficult to predict."

In the words of another senior official at the Russian ministry, Sergei Prikhodko, Russia demanded from Estonia "exhaustive explanations and punishment of the authors of and participants in the provocation."

At the same time the pickets in front of the Russian naval headquarters in Tallinn were termed by the official an action of incitement. "It is namely such actions that fuel reciprocal hostility and serve as ground for provocations like the one that occurred at Amari," the diplomat said.

Russia Begins To Demarcate Official Border

WS2202212094 Tallinn BNS in English 1920 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 22, BNS—Russia announced today it will begin preparatory work to mark down the current borderline, what it declares the official border with Estonia.

Estonia, sticking to the border as established by the 1920 Tartu peace treaty, has turned down any suggestions so far to give the current borderline a formal status.

The Russian Foreign Ministry and other departments involved in the work have started to draw up the respective documents, Sergei Prikhodko, head of the Bureau for the Baltics at the 2nd European department at the Foreign Ministry told reporters at a briefing in Moscow.

He said a situation when no clearly marked border exists in reality couldn't last forever.

The diplomat said Russia was forced to start marking the border unilaterally, as Estonia was not prepared to do it together.

He said a situation had emerged on the Estonian-Russian border that could lead to "severe consequences," adding that this was due to Estonia's attempts to "resurrect the 1920 Tartu Peace Treaty."

Expressing Russia's concern about frequent occasions of illegal border crossing and what he called "agitation carried out by Estonian emissaries" on the territories that were once part of Estonia, he said appeals to residents in those areas to take Estonian citizenship and get Estonian passports were "in violation of the Russian legislation."

At the same time Russia allows its citizens to have dual citizenship, a status that Estonian laws forbid.

Estonia in its official policy insists that the 1920 Tartu Peace Treaty remains in force and, thus, Estonia has the legal right for territories now formally part of Russia's Leningrad and Pskov regions, which went to Russia in the 1940's and 1950's.

Also the Estonian Constitution defines the country's borders as valid before the Soviet invasion of 1940.

Russia regards the peace treaty as having lost its validity.

Tallinn City Court Issues Ruling on Israeli Arms Deal

WS2202125194 Tallinn ETA in English 1914 GMT 21 Feb 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Tallinn, February 21—Tallinn City Court ruled against MP Juri Toomepuu in a lawsuit against Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar and the State Chancellery over the controversial Israeli arms deal, concluded in January 1993 between the Estonian government and Israeli TAAS company, judge Viljo Viilol told ETA, on Monday [21 February].

Juri Toomepuu accused Mart Laar and the State Chancellery of concluding a "harmful and illegal", both towards him and the Estonian state, arms deal with the TAAS Israel Industries company and in willfully presenting wrong data. Toomepuu applied for compensation of "financial and moral harm" done to him, correspondingly 1075,86 kroons and 10 million kroons.

After the Riigikogu adopted the ratifying law of the arms deal on December 15 last year, it made the agreement lawful starting January 7, 1993, when it was signed, Viilol said. President Lennart Meri ratified the law at the end of December last year.

Thus, Toomepuu's accusations that those that signed the agreement had broken the Constitution and that the deal was unfavourable and economically disadvantageous to Estonia, causing him financial harm, were unfounded, Viilol stated.

Toomepuu has to pay 15,340 kroons to barrister Urmas Arumae for representing the State Chancellery. Toomepuu has the right to appeal to Tallinn district court in ten days.

Arms Company To Correct Shipment

WS2302092294 Tallinn BNS in English 1920 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 22, BNS—A representative of TAAS Israel Industries Ltd., visiting Estonia over alleged failure

of a part of the companys' arms consignment to measure up to provisions of the arms purchase agreement, said TAAS will unconditionally and on its own expense do away with all shortcomings in the shipment.

The Estonian side at today's talks presented its claims and proposals concerning the shortcomings uncovered by experts at the Estonian armed forces' Central Staff, a spokesman for the Defense Ministry said.

Issues over which the parties might remain diverse will be settled after additional expert examination, he said.

In order to avoid discrepancies in the future, Estonian representatives will inspect the weapons as to their completeness when the next consignments will be put together in Israel, the meeting decided.

Soviet-made trophy weapons received by Estonia as a gift from TAAS, which have caused most of the protests by Estonian as to their usability, are to be assessed by a commission of independent experts in the near future, the defense ministry spokesman said.

The Soviet-made ZU-23-2 anti-aircraft guns, which arrived in Estonia in shipments on Jan. 23 and Feb. 4, were found substandard by Estonian experts in a report turned in Feb. 16. The weapons were a gift from TAAS Israel Industries Ltd. to Estonia. This was also confirmed in a letter by the company's Vice President Razi Dotan from Jan. 27.

The Estonian defense forces' Central Staff in its Feb. 17 report on expert examination pointed out shortcomings in the supplies of additional equipment when compared to the provisions of the agreement signed between Estonia and the Israeli company. In abidance by the stipulations of the agreement, the Defense Ministry on the same day notified the Israeli company of the shortcomings discovered.

The Estonian parliament's State Defense Commission in a statement on Feb. 17 said the Israeli state company had violated the arms purchase agreement with Estonia.

Khasbulatov Guard Arrested, Said Preparing 'Base'

PM2202131394 Moscow TRUD in Russian 18 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Khasbulatov's Guard Arrested"]

[Text] Estonian security police and an MVD special subunit have arrested Aleksandr Denisov, who was on the wanted list for organizing mass disturbances in Moscow last October, in the Estonian city of Johvi.

When he was arrested Denisov, who guarded Khasbulatov and Rutskoy, was found to be carrying a Tokarev pistol. The detainee testified that he was preparing "a base for around 20 people connected with the October events in Russia" in northeast Estonia.

Before moving to Russia Denisov worked in the Estonian city of Kohtla-Jarve in the Criminal Investigations Department and later in Tallinn in the Organized Crime Department.

Latvia

Trade Agreements Signed With Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan

LD2202151394 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] A working group, including officials from the Economics Ministry, the Foreign Affairs Ministry, and the Bank of Latvia has returned from a visit to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. A Latvian-Kyrgyz Government agreement (for indefinite time) on the principles of trade and economic cooperation, which provides for a mutually favorable procedure, was initialled in Kyrgyzstan. In addition, a protocol and its supplements were signed on reciprocal supplies of goods for this year.

Kyrgyzstan wishes to receive from Latvia minibuses, spare parts for motorcars and tractors, shoes, synthetic threads, as well as consumer goods. For its part Kyrgyzstan will supply to Latvia washed wool, woolen yarn, fermented tobacco and other goods, and raw materials.

The text of an agreement on the principles of trade and economic cooperation, and a protocol of supplies were coordinated with Kazakhstan. Supplements to the protocol were signed. This agreement will be initialled in the very near future.

Latvia will receive from Kazakhstan coal from Karaganda, pig iron, tin plate, which is needed for producers of tinned fish and dairy products, and rolled nonferrous metals. After additional coordination by the governments of the two countries, the supply of wheat from Kazakhstan is also possible.

A visit of the working group to Uzbekistan, as well as to Tajikistan and Turkmenistan to coordinate and sign protocols of reciprocal supplies are scheduled for the beginning of March.

Groups Protest Continued Russian Tenure of Skrunda

LD2202172794 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] The Latvian National Independence Movement [LNNK], the alliance For the Fatherland and Freedom, the People's Front of Latvia, the Latvian Green Party, the Latvian Christian Democratic Union, the Environment Protection Club, the Latvian National Soldiers' Society, the Latvian National Union of Falcons of the Daugava, the Latvian Association of the Politically Repressed, the Livonian Association and the Latvian National Partisans' Union, all of which are participant groups in the union of Latvian National Forces, have signed a protest statement against the maintenance of the Skrunda radar station in Latvia for another five and a half years. This was announced today at a news conference by Baiba Petersone, deputy chairman of the LNNK board.

The Union of National Forces calls on the Latvian government delegation, the Saeima, and the state president not to accept a treaty with Russia if it even partly legitimizes Russia's military presence in Latvia. Otherwise, the

statement says, the Union of National Forces envisages using the forms of direct democracy and the experience of non-violent resistance until the full withdrawal of a foreign country's troops.

Former Defense Minister on Skrunda Radar Base Problem

WS2202151494 Riga LETA in English 1050 GMT 22 Feb 94

[From the "Latvian Press Review"]

[Text] Riga, February 22, LETA—"Skrunda—Is it a military or political problem" - it is the question that the former Latvian Defence Minister Talavs Jundzis, the Director of the Baltic Center for Strategic Research at the Latvian Academy of Science, sought to give an answer to on the pages of the newspaper "Diena". The regiment No. 18591 of the Russian Armed Forces takes up 500 hectares of land in the district of Ranki, county of Kuldiga, 5 kilometers from Skrunda where the controversial radar base is located. Such missile-attack early warnings radars first appeared in 1960's in the U.S. and the Soviet Union simultaneously. The radar base in Skrunda is only one of the eight similar military sites erected along the perimeter of the former USSR. Jundzis said that the site in Skrunda could be effectively substituted by radar stations situated in Mukachevo and Murmansk. The equipment of the base in Skrunda is worn-out and obsolete. The American experts who visited the site in 1993 were extremely surprised that the station was still functioning at all.

According to Jundzis, to keep this Russian military site in Latvia would mean to preserve the direct Russian military influence and interests in Latvia for at least five-and-a-half years which would result in Latvia still being included in the zone of direct influence of the Russian military doctrine and its armed forces as well. The agreement on Skrunda turns Latvia into a voluntary hostage for the collective security of the CIS countries with unpredictable consequences that makes the Baltic Republic to undertake a number of unsubstantiated obligations towards the Russian militaries and army veterans, Jundzis said. It would be naivete to think that in 1996 Zhirinovsky or any other similarly-minded person would keep to the agreement signed by Yeltsin in 1994. For Latvia, it would be more preferable not to sign the agreement as it might at least induce the international organizations to observe their own resolutions calling for fast and complete withdrawal of the Russian troops from Latvia.

Lithuania

Brazauskas Urges Peaceful Resolution in Bosnia

WS2302110694 Vilnius ELTA in English 2243 GMT 22 Feb 94

["Statement by President Brazauskas About Conflict in Bosnia;" From "News Bulletin" No. 442]

[Text] Vilnius, Feb 22, ELTA—After NATO had threatened Bosnia with air strikes, heavy weapons were withdrawn from Sarajevo. The efforts of United Nations, NATO, international organizations and the biggest countries to eliminate the Bosnian conflict produced the results. We support the idea of passing Sarajevo's administration to United Nations and expansion of the peace zones in other parts of Bosnia.

Although Lithuania is separated from Bosnia by more than a thousand kilometres, we are not indifferent to the senseless massacre in Europe. Unfortunately, in some other European countries the situation is not stable as well, so similar conflicts should be prevented beforehand.

Lithuania is interested in peaceful, but determined and more coordinated actions of the international community in regulating the conflict in Bosnia.

Envoy Summoned Over Illegal Weapon Transit

LD2202181594 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Nikolay Obertyshev, Russian ambassador in Vilnius, was summoned today by Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys concerning the illegal transit of military equipment through the territory of Lithuania.

As has been reported, a Russian train with 26 military armored vehicles aboard crossed the territory of Lithuania last weekend without informing the border guards in advance. The vehicles were accompanied by armed Russian servicemen who did not have the obligatory permission from the Lithuanian Ministry of Interior Affairs to transport weapons.

Minister Povilas Gylys voiced his concern to the Russian ambassador concerning the incident and asked Russia to observe the transit regulations in future.

Deputy Foreign Minister Albinas Januska told the Baltic News Service correspondent that similar incidents could have a negative impact on the possibility of signing an agreement with Russia on its military transit through Lithuania. Events like this do not prove that Russia would observe the agreement, he said.

Defense Minister on NATO Partnership, Army

WS2202111594 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian 10 Feb 94 No. 28 p 5

[Interview with Lithuanian National Defense Minister Linas Linkevicius by TIESA chief editor Domas Sniukas in Vilnius; date not given: "Some People Are Serving, While Others Are Trading"]

[Text] [Sniukas] Although the "Partnership for Peace" document, signed with NATO by President Algirdas Brazauskas on 27 January in Brussels, has already been discussed in public, I would suggest that we begin our conversation from this issue.

Society, the ruling force, and the opposition accepted this historical fact favorably but with no joy.

There are, probably, many reasons. Although boasting of this event as its accomplishment, the opposition did not feel overjoyed because the official move was made by their political rivals. In general, the ruling force does not like commotion. There have also been some doubts: Would it not have been better to remain neutral? Would not this political move, which does not yet have any definite security outlines, cost us too much?

How does the Lithuanian National Defense Ministry assess this act?

[Linkevicius] First of all, our ministry rates it as a clear and definite decision to look for collective security guarantees in the West. This was no sensation to me or, I think, many Lithuanian people. Despite the constant intimidations from the opposition's propagandists that the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDDP] is steering Lithuania toward the East, the country's integration with European economic, political, and, finally, military structures is consistent, and we were not the last to make just another step. I will remind everyone that ours was the first state among the former Soviet Union republics to be admitted to the European Council. It was also the first one from which the Russian Army withdrew. We fell short of being the first in Brussels—only Romania outstripped us "in the bend."

Certainly, the signing of the Partnership program does not yet change anything the next day. We are only drafting the concept. This is by no means NATO membership with guaranteed military assistance in the event of aggression.

It is only clear that this agreement will bring us closer to NATO and Western Europe, and will require a qualitative transformation of the armed forces.

First of all, our military facilities and ammunition will have to be revamped according to NATO standards. The same applies to the training of servicemen and officers and the functioning of the national defense system.

Not everything is new here to us. We have already accomplished something, we have had joint military exercises and so on with the Latvian and Estonian Defense Ministries.

We will also train jointly a Baltic military formation that could be used under the U.N. colors.

[Sniukas] The president has stated that our partnership with NATO is a process....

[Linkevicius] This process has already begun. A working group headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Albinas Januska has been set up at the government. The Danish and German ambassadors to NATO have already visited Lithuania. Integration moves are being discussed operatively. An officers' group is undergoing a training course in Denmark. British specialists have proposed serious assistance in military training. Sweden has offered the Baltic states considerable assistance in forming the international military corps.

I am not saying that this will cost Lithuania nothing. Yes, it will! Maybe, very much. However, how could one assess our security, independence, and our economic and cultural condition after 50 years of dependence....

A conference of Nordic defense ministers will be held in Visby in summer which will be attended by Baltic representatives as well. It is there that the assistance plans will be specified.

[Sniukas] The Moscow press has reported that quite a number of jokes are circulating at the Russian General Staff concerning the Baltic states' armored bicycles, the "corn" [reference to outdated light planes suitable for spraying corn fields rather than fighting] air force, and fishing boats armed with machine-guns. Foreign countries are said to propose trash to the Baltic states which pay much for it without consideration. This is how Western "assistance" is presented.

[Linkevicius] Certainly, the military of the country in which imperialist feelings are still alive and the nuclear weapons of which can wipe out if not the entire world then at least its half, can mock the first steps of our Defense Ministry. I would not agree, however, that Russian soldiers are morally superior to Lithuanian ones.

Every beginning is difficult. Mistakes are made, pilferers take advantage of the situation, and there is much disorder. I do not doubt, however, that Lithuania will be proud of its Army shortly, while the latter will be able not only to march but also will not repeat the mistakes of 1940 which were actually dictated by politicians.

[Sniukas] Russian jokes are supplemented by the constant criticism, particularly of the arms purchase, in the Lithuanian press. The press does not doubt that this was a crime, but it is uncertain whether anyone will be punished.

[Linkevicius] One should not expect a Solomonic reply. I think that we should distinguish at least two stages in the arms purchase.

The first one would relatively include the years 1990-1991 when we did not yet have the international recognition, when each day and hour were full of dangers, and when the National Defense Department was only emerging. Let us remember the years 1918-1920 when the Lithuanian Army bought arms from German soldiers for money, fat, and vodka. The recent situation was also similar.

Certainly, the deals of the recent months must be legally and financially justified.

I can tell the public that the Defense Ministry leadership will not defend the honor of the regiment. However, it will observe the presumption of innocence until the court

judgment. We have reached an agreement on job cooperation with the State Inspection Department and the Prosecutor General's Office. I think that we will learn the truth not only about the arms purchase but also about other deals.

[Sniukas] Listening to the statements by Defense Ministry officials about officers' low wages and poor conditions in units, the community may wonder whether our Army is not overly large. We would not resist the big neighbors even if we increased the soldiers' number tenfold. Should we rather improve its quality?

[Linkevicius] I think that this question should be addressed to our politicians. It is not the National Defense Ministry that defines the number of armed forces. Do not forget its majesty, the budget, and the finances specially assigned to national defense.

To be aware of the exact number of servicemen, the Seimas [parliament] should announce a military doctrine. The latter, in turn, cannot be drafted without a security concept. Unfortunately, our Seimas men and women have not yet discussed this issue.

[Sniukas] We have signed the "Partnership for Peace" program with NATO. However, it is difficult to predict any definite benefit except the political one. Meanwhile, Russia surely did not like this move. The community is considering now: Has our security improved or weakened after this?

[Linkevicius] We have not heard any statements from Russian officials after 27 January that are cause for concern.

First, this agreement is not directed against other countries.

Second, I think that leaders of the United States and other countries have fully explained the essence of this agreement to Russia. Furthermore, the gate is not closed to Russia.

True, our right-wing press, which speaks through the mouth of the opposition, is full of suspicions toward Bill Clinton and other Western leaders concerning the fact that Lithuania's fate has already been decided and so on. This does not surprise me because suspicion is, probably, the key trait of the current opposition.

However, if we approved of these suspicions, then there would be no sense in creating a state at all.

As far as I know, the Lithuanian Government trusts the decency of the United States and other big states. Therefore, it has appealed to NATO and wants closer cooperation with the European Union.

[Sniukas] Your office is a political one. Given our opposition's clamor, you must be scolded quite often....

[Linkevicius] The press criticizes the ministry more often than me personally. It is difficult to tell which bitter article was inspired by politicians or the editorial board itself.

I know the principles of the pr. s because I myself have been a journalist. I understand that spicy material means high circulation and prestige for a publication.

Nevertheless, before issuing criticisms, I wish reporters considered whether their articles would discipline an unsuccessful official or provide grounds for foreigners to think how awful the Lithuanian Army is.

Journalists sometimes do not realize that definite criticism (often without arguments!) makes all soldiers anxious, impairs their good spirits, and increases their nihilism.

I would also like to note one more issue. Journalists have no secrets, while we, the military, must keep many of them. We could reply to some articles but we would then have to declassify certain things. Since we cannot do this, one is left with the impression that the press is always right, while the National Defense Ministry is always wrong.

No matter how many troubles—objective and subjective—we may have in our armed forces, let us cherish them. Let us scold them, but let us say a few good words as well!

[Sniukas] Only some of the conscripts come to the Army today. There is a prevailing opinion among the community that only the children of ordinary parents (I will refrain from using stronger epithets) perform the duty of their homeland defense. They are a type of recruit. I have not heard of children of high officials, Seimas deputies, millionaires, and Gariunai [notorious market-place near Vilnius] boys serving in the Army.

[Linkevicius] You are correct to note this. Because we cannot draft everyone, various excuses and advantages ensue.

[Sniukas] I can again impart the public opinion, in case you do not know it. "Good children of good men" do not serve in the Army due to bribes and connections.

We lament that physically weak and unfit youngsters come to the Army. While they are living a difficult everyday Army life, their contemporaries with strongly built muscles are flying to Beijing, Istanbul, or Amsterdam, enriching themselves daily, and even mocking the Army. Do we not discredit the sacred duty of homeland defense in this way? Does not service in the Army become the job of simpletons?

[Linkevicius] I would not use such strong words. However, the problem is serious. Conscription commissions are subordinated to the Health Ministry, and we are unable to control bribes. I will be self-critical—both our ministry and the Prosecutor General's Office are conniving.

We could introduce alternative service, but it is difficult to organize it under economic depression. Military departments at higher educational establishments could train officers in the reserve.

[Sniukas] I would propose the following plan of conscription to military service: We should draft the strongest and healthiest persons. If the latter did not want to serve they could ransom themselves for, let us say, 10,000 or 50,000

litai. There would be many such people, while the National Defense Ministry could raise another budget as the one assigned by the state. The money which now flows as bribes into the pockets of commission members would go to the National Defense Ministry account.

Certainly, all this should be fully voluntary. Then servicemen would not envy those who have paid the ransom, while the latter would not feel the humiliating superiority. Such a principle could be abandoned after imposing order in the country's legal system, and after economic possibilities for the expansion of Army ranks emerge.

[Linkevicius] This is an interesting proposal but it is the matter of the Seimas.

[Sniukas] Thank you for the interview.

Fifth Round of Talks Held on Agreement With Poland

WS2302111994 Vilnius ELTA in English 2243 GMT 22 Feb 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 442]

[Text] Warsaw, Feb 22, ELTA—On Tuesday the fifth and, hopefully, the last Lithuanian-Polish negotiation round for the bilateral agreement was held at the Polish Foreign Ministry. The negotiations were headed by the Foreign Vice-Ministers Vladislavas Domarkas and Iwo Byczevski.

On the eve of the negotiations Byczevski said that he hoped to reach the final solution of all disputable questions. He added that there would not be a separate declaration on the Vilnius region annexation in 1920. Byczevski also noted that Poland would point out requirements of the Polish minority in Lithuania in the agreement.

Members of Lithuanian state delegation also told ELTA that there would not be a separate declaration, but historical aspects important for the both countries would be mentioned in the preamble of the agreement.

On Tuesday [22 February] Polish Catholic daily THE SLOWO published an open letter from the federation of the Polish who live in the border territories in Poland (the Kreis organizations) to Polish prime minister. They required to consider the part of the agreement concerning the rights of the Polish minority in Lithuania in the Polish-Lithuanian negotiations.

Treaty With Poland Seeks To Preserve History

WS2202212694 Tallinn BNS in English 1920 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Vilnius, Feb 22, BNS—"The Vilnius problem will surely be mentioned in one or another form in the treaty with Poland," said Albinas Januska, Lithuanian deputy minister of foreign affairs.

Januska said Lithuanian and Polish positions on the estimation of disputed historic events have "sufficiently drawn closer." Therefore it became possible "to choose formulas that would satisfy both sides," he said.

A delegation of Lithuanian negotiators, led by Vladislovas Domarkas, deputy minister of foreign affairs, left for Warsaw Monday [21 February], to continue talks on some disputed clauses of the Lithuanian-Polish agreement on friendship and cooperation.

Januska regretted that his Polish counterpart Iwo Byczewski, who heads the Polish negotiation team, "speaks widely about things that might only become a result of talks."

The Polish news agency PAP quoted Byczewski as saying that Lithuania gave up its intentions to sign a separate declaration on the 1920 annexation of Vilnius together with the main agreement.

Lithuanian radio said Monday that the Polish official expressed doubt whether history will be discussed in detail, except for several "general" sentences in the preamble of the accord.

In Januska's opinion, the return of history to the text is considered a positive step but "not just another concession of the Lithuanian side.

"It seems, we have reached a stage when a return to the initial formula can be made—to include everything in one treaty, and this makes things more significant."

Lithuania sought to mention the annexation of Vilnius in the main agreement from the very beginning of interstate talks, but when Poland disagreed, the Lithuanian side suggested to move history to a separate declaration that would be signed simultaneously.

The Lithuanian negotiators are scheduled to return from Poland Feb. 23.